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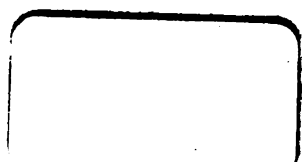
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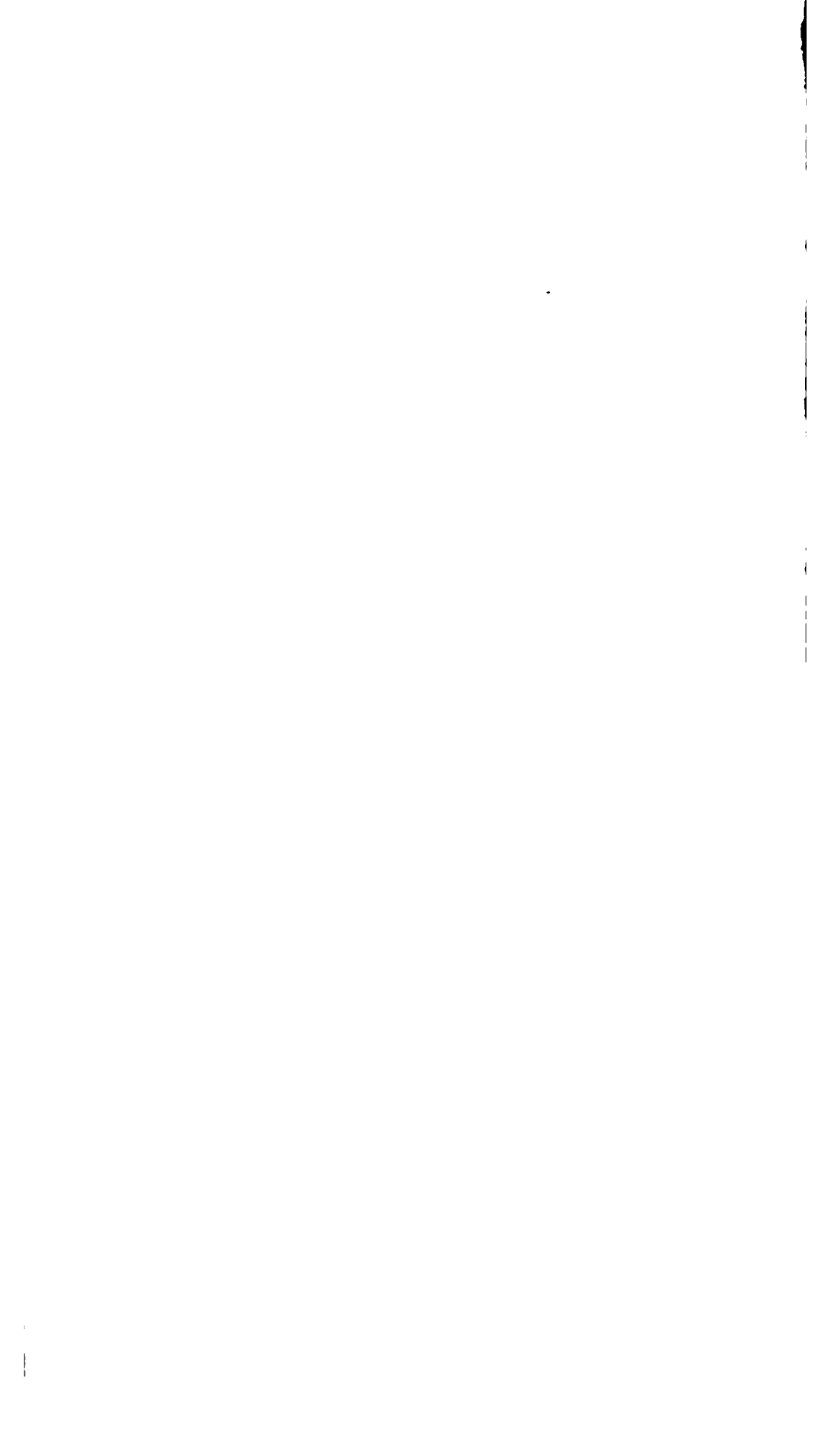






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THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

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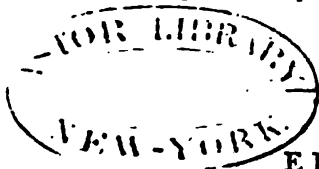
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VOLUME SIXTEENTH.

*“ Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.”*

CICERO, de Orat. lib. ii.



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## C O N T E N T S.

No.	Name.	Population in 1735.	in 1794-5.	Increase.	Dec.	Page.
1	Inveresk, -	4645	5392	747	—	1
2	Heriot, -	209	300	91	—	50
3	Castletown,	1507	1418	—	89	60
4	Forgan, -	751	875	124	—	88
5	Killearn, -	957	973	16	—	100
6	Newburn, -	438	456	18	—	130
7	Portree, -	1385	1980	595	—	138
8	Affint, -	1934	3000	1066	—	163
9	Effie and Nevay,	625	630	5	—	212
10	Strath, -	943	1579	636	—	222
11	Bowden, -	672	860	188	—	230
12	Anstruther Easter,	1000	1000	—	—	243
13	Hoy and Græmsfay,	680	410	—	270	245
14	Westray, -	1290	1629	339	—	251
15	Glenelg, -	1816	2746	930	—	265
16	Whithorn, -	1300	1890	590	—	275
17	Bothwell, -	1561	2707	1146	—	299
18	Rafford, -	1313	1072	—	241	338
19	Whitsom and Hilton,	399	590	191	—	348
20	Peterculter,	755	1002	247	—	358
21	Sandwick and Stromness,	3000	3012	12	—	409
22	Deer, -	2813	3267	454	—	469
23	Legerwood, -	398	422	24	—	484
24	Temple, -	905	593	—	312	497
25	Morbattle, -	789	789	—	—	504
26	Wemyss, -	3041	3025	—	16	513
27	Sleat, -	1250	1788	538	—	534
28	Peterhead, -	2487	4100	1613	—	541
29	Lonmay, -	1674	1650	—	24	631
30	Premnay, -	448	450	2	—	637
Totals,		40985	49605	9572	952	
Increase in 1794-5,			8620	8620		



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JLON  
VROEL



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# STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

O F

## SCOTLAND.

### PART XVI.

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#### NUMBER I.

#### PARISH OF INVERESK,

(COUNTY OF MID-LOTHIAN, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF DALMEITH.)

*By the Rev. Dr ALEXANDER CARLYLE, Minister.*

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*Names, Situation, River, Hill, &c.*

THE Gaelic derivation of *Inver*, in some of the Statistical Accounts, makes it signify the same as *Inver*, a field fit for tillage. In the low country of Scotland, it seems rather to signify, *The Mouth of a River*, or *The Confluence of two Rivers*; and if Inveresk is not of Celtic original, there is no other name of any place in the parish, that has the least affinity to that language. Agreeably to this derivation, the name of INVERESK marks its situation on the lower part of the river *Eske*, which falls in two streams from the moun-

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A

tains



tains of Morfit on the S. and Pentland on the N. that bound the great vale of Mid-Lothian, meet in Dalkeith Park near the confines of this parish, and flow together through a beautiful vale to the sea; within half a mile of which, the river is interrupted in its course, by the hill where the church and village of Inveresk stand. Round this hill the stream circulates to the W., when turning the Point, and running between Musselburgh and Fishherrow, in the direction of N. E., it falls into the sea a quarter of a mile below these towns. *Musselburgh* has derived its name from an extensive muscle bank, which lies in the sea below the town, and was probably the cause of its early population; as, even at this day, it affords a great relief to the poorer inhabitants in times of scarcity, and at all times supplies the tables of the rich with a delicate variety. This parish lies in a semicircular form, on the bottom of the deepest bay on the S. side of the frith of Forth, the string of the bow extending two miles and a half, from Magdalene Bridge on the W. to Ravenshaw Burn on the E., which divides the county of Edinburgh, or Mid-Lothian, from that of East Lothian. The bow itself, taking the middle of the string as a centre, reaches nearly to the same distance, of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the sea.

*Prospects, &c.*—The situation of this parish is one of the most beautiful in Scotland. The low part of it is only a few feet above the level of the sea; between which, and the towns of Musselburgh and Fishherrow, lie very spacious and pleasant links, those beautiful downs on the sea-shore, almost peculiar to Scotland, which furnish a field for that favourite exercise of the inhabitants, the golf, and dry walks at all seasons of the year. Behind this flat or plain, through which the river runs into the sea, and which is about half



half a mile in breadth, there is a fine rising ground, which begins at the eastern extremity of the parish, and extends in a swelling curve to the hill of Inveresk, where stand the village of that name, and the church of St Michael's. The S. side of this hill takes also the form of a crescent, so that all the houses on that side have a full view of the woods of Dalkeith Park, and the extensive country to the south, as well as of the haugh and river, and their own sloping gardens.

*Climate, &c.*—This situation makes the village not only agreeable, but healthy, and obtained for it of old the name of the *Montpellier* of Scotland. The soil of the plain, especially about Musselburgh, being remarkably dry, and a constant brilliancy and freshness flowing from the river and the adjacent sea, there is a softness and amenity in the air through the whole season, that is seldom to be met with in any other situation in this northern climate. Beyond the village of Inveresk, to the S. E., lie extensive and well cultivated fields, bounded at the distance of two miles, by the hills of Falside and Carberry, which terminate a long fertile ridge, that begins to rise 5 or 6 miles to the eastward; and the latter of which is the highest ground in this parish, being 540 feet above the level of the sea. To the S. and W. of the river, lie fertile fields equally well cultivated, terminated by the extensive park and domain of Dalkeith; a considerable part of which, (*viz.* what was formerly *Smieaton* and *Castle-heads*), lies in this parish.

*Antiquities.*—The Romans did not fail to observe the fortunate situation of the hill of Inveresk, which, though not more than 50 feet above the level of the sea, commands an extensive view, not only of the adjacent country, but of the spacious basin of the Frith, which is there about 18  
miles



miles broad, and of the coast of Fife, from Burntisland to the mouth of the Frith. History assures us, that they had a station here, and repeated discoveries \* point out the spot where

\* At different times Roman coins, and once an altar, with this inscription, *Apollini Granio*, have been found in levelling the adjacent grounds. But if there had remained any doubt, concerning the situation of this Roman fort, it was fully cleared up a few years ago, when the proprietor of the villa had occasion to take two or three feet off the surface of his parterre, when there were discovered the floors and foundations of various buildings. The owner being absent, attending his duty in Parliament, the workmen were prevailed upon, by the author of this account, to clear the earth carefully away from one of them, and to leave the ruins standing for some time, for the inspection of the curious. It was found to be a Roman bath of two rooms. The superstructure had been thrown down and removed, but the floor remained entire, and about 6 inches high of the wall of the smallest room, which was 9 feet long, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  wide. There was a communication through the partition wall for water, by an earthen pipe. The other room was 15 feet by 9. The floors of these, and of the other rooms, were covered with tarras uniformly laid on, about two inches thick. Below this coat there was a coarser sort of lime and gravel five inches deep, laid upon unshapely and unjointed flags. This floor stood on pillars two feet high, some of stone, and some of circular bricks. The earth had been removed to come to a solid foundation, on which to erect the pillars. Under the tarras of the smallest room there was a coarser tarras, fully 10 inches thick, which seemed intended to sustain or bear a more considerable fire under it, than the *Hypocaustum* of the largest room. There appeared to have been large fires under it, as the pillars were injured by them, and there was found a quantity of charcoal in perfect preservation.

The *Hypocaustum* of the larger room, or space under the tarras'd floor, was filled with earth, and with flews made of clay, which were laid every where between the rows of pillars, and were a little discoloured with smoke; a smaller degree of heat having been conveyed through them, than through those under the other room. But these contrivances under the floors seem only to have been intended to preserve heat in the water, which had been carried warm from a kettle, built up, or hung on brick work, on one side of the largest room. This brick work was much injured by strong fires, and was four feet square.

This



where the *Prætorium* was built. It was undoubtedly on the summit of the hill where the church now stands, and included that beautiful villa that lies to the eastward of it; a hollow road, which, till about 35 years ago, passed within three yards of that villa, having most likely been the fosse of the prætorium. It is now included in the garden and pleasure ground. The church, of which the antiquity is not known, and which is called *St Michael's of Inveresk*, has probably been built out of the ruins of that ancient Roman edifice.—A building of high antiquity was situated at the east end of Musselburgh, which belonged to the abbacy of Dunfermline. It was called the *Chapel of Loretto*. There are no remains of it now but a small cell, about 12 feet by 10, covered by a mount, in the garden of the gentleman who is now in possession of the villa called *Loretto*. Soon after the Reformation, about the year 1590, the tolbooth of Musselburgh was built out of the ruins of this

This seems to have been a kind of building used by the Romans only for temporary use. The cement, or tarras, sufficiently proves by whom it was made, as the Roman composition of that kind is superior to any of later ages. It is remarkable, that the tarras of the grand sewers under the city of Rome is of the same kind; and it is related by travellers, that in the very ancient buildings in the kingdom of Bengal, the very same sort has been used. Two medals were found among the ruins, now in the possession of Robert Colt, Esq; owner of the villa; one of gold, much defaced, which is supposed to be of Trajan; another of copper, on which the inscription is clear, *Diva Faustina*. There are traditional accounts, that in digging foundations of houses in Fisherrow, there have been found similar ruins of *Hypocausta*, which afford a proof, that this station was not merely military, but was a *Colonia Romana* or *Municipium*; that they had many houses and buildings near the sea, as well as their prætorium at Inveresk; and that one of their principal harbours on this side of the Frith was at Fisherrow. From that harbour, situated where there is one at present, there was a Roman causeway, (the traces of which remained within the memory of some still living), which led to their camp at Sheriff-hall, three miles S. W. and onwards to Borthwick.



this chapel, which must have been of considerable dimensions. The old steps of the stair, which was repaired not long since, were the bases of the pillars of this chapel, according to the report of masons still living. This is said to have been the first religious house in Scotland, whose ruins were applied to an unhallowed use\*, for which the good people of Musselburgh are said to have been *annually excommunicated*, till very lately, at Rome.

History assures us, that RANDOLPH Earl of Murray died in Musselburgh of the stone, in July 1332, and tradition points out the house where he died, near the east end of the town, on the south side. It is a vaulted house, of two rooms on the ground floor; the rooms are about 14 feet square, and the arch 8 feet high, with a passage between them 6 feet wide. This might well have been the best house in the town 460 years ago †. Tradition also says, that the inhabitants having formed a guard round the house, during the illness of this great man, they found such favour with the Earl of Mar, the succeeding regent, that he granted, or obtained for them, their first charter.

In this parish lies the field of the *battle of Pinkie* ‡, which was fought in the year 1547, when Queen Mary was an infant, with such disadvantage to the Scots.

*Garberry*

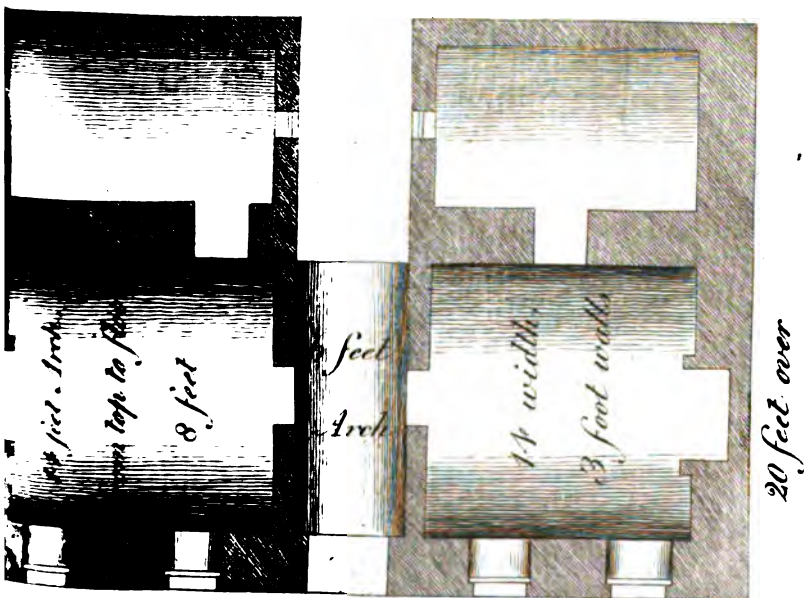
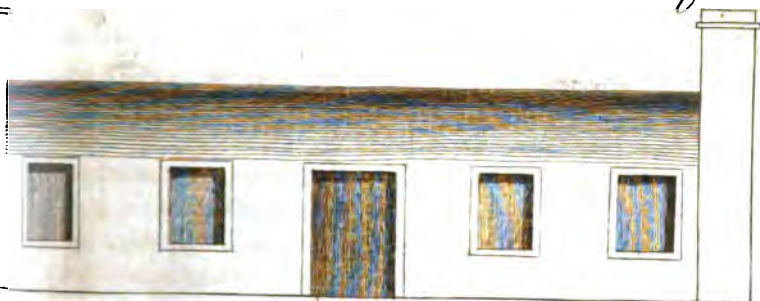
\* Till about 30 years ago there was a middle row of houses eastward from the Tolbooth, one of which had been a chapel, called *Chapel Gavel*. There were various other old chapels in different situations; one in a garden in the west end of Market-gate, and one in New Hailes grounds, called *Magdalene Chapel*, near to Magdalene Bridge, of which there are now no remains; besides an alms-house in Market-gate, which is now a dwelling-house.

† A drawing of it is subjoined.

‡ PATON's *Journal*. of which there is a copy in the Advocates Library, gives a very particular account of this battle, and points out the state of  
this

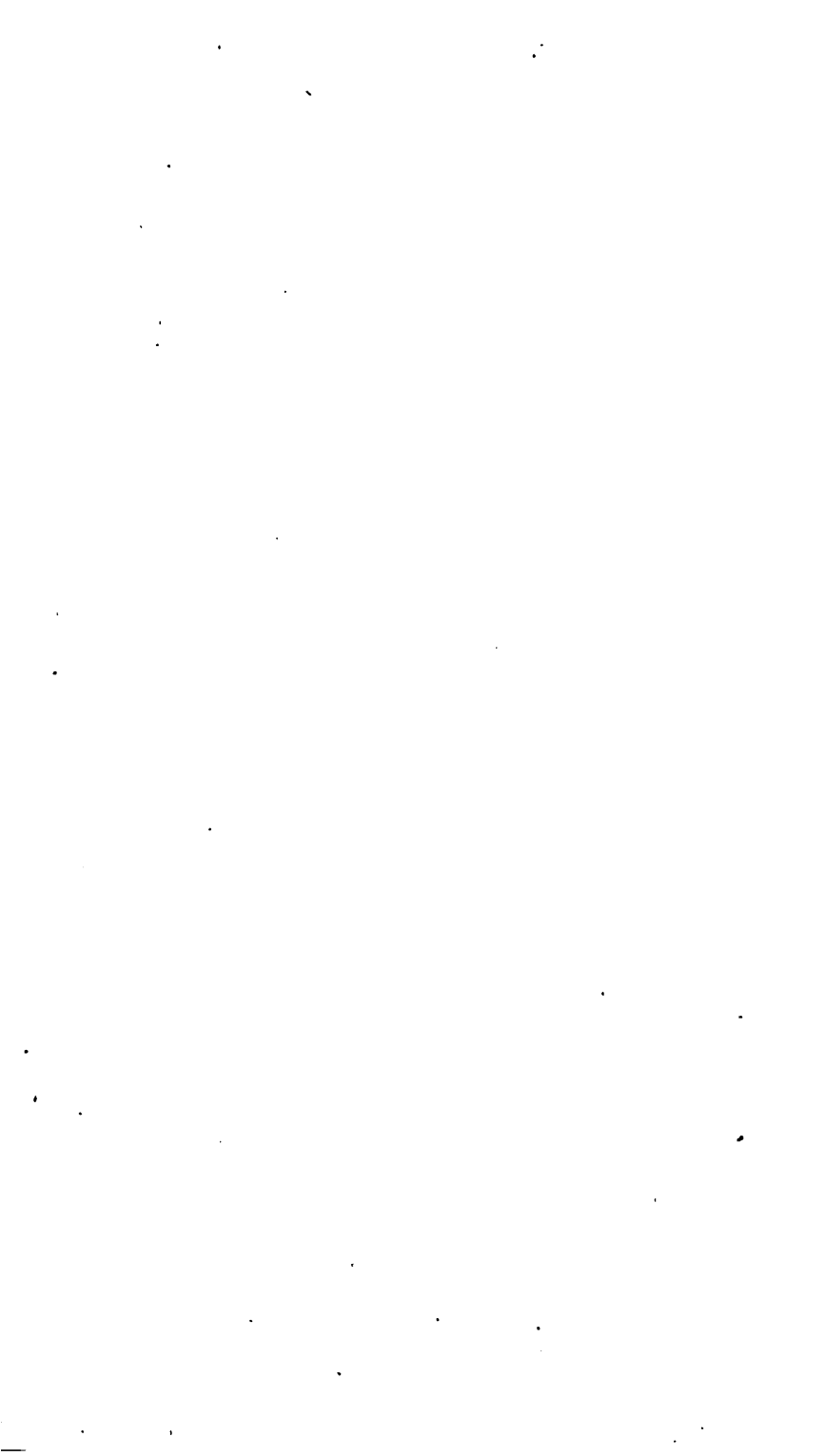


Plan of the House near the east end of. Mufleburgh  
which RANDOLPH EARL of MURRAY Died July 1332



42 feet over







*Carberry Hill.*—Just over the field of battle there is a hill, which was still more fatal to Queen Mary, and has been known ever since by the name of the *Queen's Seat*. It is the top of the hill of Carberry, where that unfortunate Princess sat on a stone, and held a conference with Kirkcaldy of Grange, who had been commissioned for that purpose by the confederate Lords. During this parley, Bothwell, who had taken leave of the Queen for the last time, rode off the field to Dunbar. As soon as he was out of danger, Mary suffered herself to be led by Kirkcaldy to Morton and the Lords, who received her with due marks of respect, and ample promises of future loyalty and obedience. The sequel is well known. From that hour she was deprived of liberty for life, except for the few days that intervened, between her escape from Lochleven Castle, and her surrender to Elizabeth, after the fatal battle of Langside.

this parish at the time. It was fought on the field that lies between the village of Inveresk and Walliford, and Carberry; and was brought on by the usual impetuosity of the Scots, who would not wait till the English army, who were beginning to run short of provisions, had been obliged to return home. The Scottish army were encamped on that large field west of the Esk, which went by the name of Edminstone Edge; the English lay at the places now called Drummorie and Walliford. As the Scots passed the bridge of Musselburgh, and marched to the field up the hill of Inveresk, on the west side of the church, there being then no village, and only two shepherd's houses on that hill, they were annoyed by cannon shot from the English galleys in the bay; inasmuch, that the Lord Graham, eldest son of the first Earl of Montrose, was killed on the bridge, with many of his followers. To have crossed the river at any other place, would have been still more dangerous, as there was then a thick wood on the banks of it, all the way to Dalkeith. After passing the church of Inveresk, they must have been covered from the shot, as the ground slopes from thence down to the *How Mire*, (in those days a morass, though now drained and cultivated), from whence it rises gently to the bottom of the hills of Carberry and Falside. On this gentle rising lay the field of action.



**Langside.** The bloody field of Pinkie under her eye, might have put this ill-fated Queen on her guard. But unfit for the rugged times in which she lived, she had the misfortune to be at once facile and obstinate. The late proprietor of Carberry, John Fullarton, Esq, has marked this spot to posterity by planting a copse-wood upon it.

**Bridge.**—The bridge of Musselburgh, over which the Scottish army marched on the day of the battle of Pinkie, is of great, but unknown antiquity. It is most likely, that it is a work of the Romans, as they certainly had many houses in what is now called Filherrow, as well as their haven for shipping; and could not possibly suffer their colony to be divided, and their harbour separated from their fort by a river, that is frequently unfordable for many days together. This bridge has many marks of antiquity; and as several parts of the arches approach nearly to a straight line, the frame, or coom, on which it was raised, must have sunk while it was building. The arches are 30 feet wide, their spring only 10 feet; whoever built it must have intended, to place the approaches to it out of the reach of the tide; which is the case to this day, and demonstrates that the coast is not materially changed, or that the sea has not gained on the land since that period, as the site of the harbour proves that it has not receded from it.

**Pinkie House.**—Pinkie House, though not very ancient, (as it was built by Alexander Seton, first Earl of Dunfermline, in the year 1622), deserves to be mentioned, because it was a vulgar notion for many years, that there were as many doors and windows in it, as there are days in the year. This has been copied into many of the tours and travels into Scotland, though without foundation; and serves only to prove, that the house of Pinkie, though half  
 2 the



the design has only been executed, was one of the first houses of any degree of magnitude, in this part of the country, as it excited the wonder of the common people. The inscription on the front of this house \*, now hid by a covered way, points out the humbleness of the building, or the pride of its founder. The gallery is 80 feet long, the ceiling of which is covered with emblematical paintings and inscriptions †.

*Routing Well.*—The *Routing Well* at Monkton, that is said always to *predict* a storm, is a wonder of the same nature as the preceding. The case is, that this well being dug many fathoms deep, through a rock, in order to get below the strata of coal that abound in the field, it communicates through the coal rooms that are wrought, with other shafts; which occasions a rumbling noise, that does not *precede*, but accompanies a high wind.

*Soil, Surface, Extent, &c.*—The soil of this parish varies according to its distance from the sea. The flat ground round Musselburgh and Fisherrow is sandy, but, having been for ages in a high state of cultivation for gardens and small fields, is abundantly fertile. The fields above Inveresk, on both sides of the river, are of a better quality, and may soon

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\* Domianus Alexander Setonius hanc domum ædificavit, non ad animi, sed fortunarum et agelli modum, 1613.

† On the forfeiture of the family in 1688, this house and barony were purchased by the family of Tweeddale, from whom, in the year 1778, it was bought by Sir Archibald Hope of Craighall, Bart. and is now a more comfortable dwelling-house than ever. An inclosure of 20 acres, covered with fine old trees, contributes much to its beauty; and the shelter they afford, together with the aptitude of the soil, form one of the finest fruit gardens in the neighbourhood.



be made as fertile as any in the kingdom. Those which rise towards the hill on the S. E., and which run into Newton parish on the S. W., partake more of a clay soil, and carry great crops of grain, especially wheat, when they are under proper management. There are 3571 acres of land in the parish, which, at the usual computation of 45 acres for a plough-gate, makes about 80 plough-gates.

*Rent and Proprietors.*—The real rental of the parish is about L. 6500; that of the towns and villages, including the mills of Musselburgh, salt-works, &c. and the houses of the heritors, as made out to fix an assessment for the poor, amounts to L. 5000; total about L. 11,500. The great proprietors are 8 in number; viz. 1<sup>st</sup>, the Duke of Buccleugh, who is patron of the parish, as possessing the lordship of Inveresk, formerly belonging to Sir Robert Dickson of Carberry, who sold it to the Dukes of Monmouth about the beginning of this century. His Grace holds also the lands of Smeaton and Castlesteads, and likewise the lordship of Musselburgh in this parish. His residence is at Dalkeith House. 2. The Earl of Wemyss, who has the lands of Stonyhill, which formerly belonged to Sir William Sharp, son of the Archbishop of St Andrew's, and before that was possessed by a family of the name of Dobie. His Lordship has likewise the lands of Monktonhall, with the coal under the whole lordship of Inveresk. Non-resident. 3. Mrs Fullarton of Carberry, which estate was purchased from Sir Robert Dickson, Bart. who was descended from Dr David Dickson, Professor of Divinity in the College of Edinburgh about the middle of last century. The family is now extinct. Resident. 4. Sir Archibald Hope, Bart. of Craighall, proprietor of the barony of Pinkie, who has also acquired the barony of Monkton, late in the possession of the Falconers, a branch of the family of Halkerton, which furnished



nished a Judge to the Court of Session some time in last century. Resident. 5. James Finlay, Esq; of Walliford, which was formerly possessed by the Binnings, a family of some note in the law, one of whom was a Lord of Session about the year 1672, and built the present mansion-house. Non-resident. 6. Miss Dalrymple of Hailes, the daughter of the late Lord Hailes, who has her family seat in this parish, called New Hailes; one of the first houses whose park was laid out and adorned with all the elegance of modern taste. Resident. 7. John Wauchop, Esq; has a part of his estate in this parish, which borders on the estate of Edminstone, where he has his family seat. 8. The town of Musselburgh has also a considerable estate in this parish, which is held of the Duke of Buccleugh. There are many other smaller proprietors of land, who are all portioners of the lordship of Inveresk, as they are called, or feuars of the barony of Pinkie, or of the town of Musselburgh.

*Minerals.*—There is plenty of freestone in the parish, and likewise of limestone, though the last is not wrought at present. But the most valuable mines are those of coal, which lie under the whole parish. The pits open at present are either the property of Sir Archibald Hope, or rented by him from the Earl of Wemyss, and, being well managed, are very productive. In former times, till the year 1776, colliers were in a state of slavery in Scotland, which was considered as a disgrace to the British Government. Through some defect in the act of Parliament that set them free, or in the management of them since that period, there has sometimes been a great scarcity of coals, though they can earn double the wages of any other labourers.

*Agriculture.*—The state of agriculture has not yet arrived at perfection in this parish. The fields nearest the towns,



towns are chiefly in the hands of butchers, bakers, brewers, and carters, and, being only subsidiary to their other employments, are not in the most perfect state of cultivation. There are few fallows, and very rarely any green crops, though the soil, on the lordship of Inveresk especially, is remarkably fit for them. From the former they are with-held by the fear of losing a crop; and from the latter they are deterred by the multitude of idle children, and other depredators of such crops in the neighbourhood. As the rent has now risen to L. 2, 10 s. and L. 3 *per* acre, they will soon be obliged to follow the most profitable methods of husbandry. The greater part of the lands in this parish run readily into grass, and carry great crops of hay. The pasturage is likewise excellent; and as the demand for grass grounds increases with the size and population of the capital, such soils as are in its vicinity, must be able to bear the increased rent.

*Improvements.*—Two other circumstances have contributed much to raise the rent of this parish, which, 40 years ago, was not more than L. 1, or L. 1, 5 s. *per* acre. The first was the dividing, and afterwards inclosing, about 700 acres of land in the fields of Inveresk, the property of many different feuers of that Lordship, about 35 years ago. The second was the introduction of two-horse ploughs without a driver. The writer of this account, and Dr GRIEVE, then minister of Dalkeith, having each of them entered into the possession of small farms in the higher parts of their respective parishes, in the year 1768, being acquainted with the practice of the ancients in that particular, and having observed the wheel plough with two horses, held and driven by one man, successfully used for some years within the park of Dalkeith, resolved to make trial of that method in their farms, though of a strong clay soil. They began with  
horses,



horses, and in a short time trained oxen likewise to the same operation. They were laughed at in the beginning by the neighbouring farmers; but when the second year came round, and the luxuriance of their crops was observed, their example was immediately followed by all their neighbours. The practice spread itself gradually all around, and for many years there has been no plowing in all the Lothians, or in the Merse, but with two horses and one man; while, at the same time, the instrument itself has been cheapened and amended by Mr Small of Dalkeith's improvement on the Scotch plough. It is obvious how much this change must have contributed to lessen the expence of tillage, and to raise the rent of land.

*Manufactures, &c.*—Though this town and parish are remarkably well situated for manufactures, having the command of water, plenty of coals at hand, cheap houses, and a multitude of idle children, yet hitherto none very considerable have been established. This is perhaps owing to their having been at all times carriers and furnishers of various kinds of provisions for the capital, which employed them in a manner more agreeable to them, than the sedentary lives of manufacturers could have been. In the end of last century, a broad cloth manufactory was begun here, and was long carried on in great perfection, though not to great extent. Some excellent cloth, both coarse and fine, continues still to be made here by Messrs Cathie, Stewart, Nichols and Dickson \*. There has lately been introduced

\* In the early part of this century, they manufactured large quantities of coarse wool, into a kind of checks, called Musselburgh stuffs, at the price of from 2½d to 5d. per yard, which were mostly exported to America, for gowns to female servants. But the progress of the cotton manufacture has long superseded that branch, and for many years the use of that low-priced stuff



introduced the manufacture of Manchester goods, thicksets, waistcoats, handkerchiefs, &c. on a small scale, which promises to do well. There is a thriving stone ware pottery, as well as a pottery for brown ware at this place\*. There are several soap-boilers and starch-makers in this parish: One of the latter sort, at Monkton, of considerable extent†; which, in the year preceding July 6. 1792, paid no less than L. 4064 : 13 : 4 of excise duty, and was carried on by Aitchison, Brown, and Company, the proprietors of the great distillery in St Clement's Wells, locally in the parish of Tranent, but on the boundary of this parish, in which they have their rectifying-house, and their malting, and where most of their workmen reside. This is a distillery of great extent. The barley made into malt in one year, from July 6. 1791 to July 6. 1792, amounted to 13,131 bolls. They feed off 600 cattle twice a-year, besides many hundreds of hogs at the starch-work and here; and the effects of their dung are perceived not only on their own extensive farms, but on many fields in the neighbourhood. The brewing of beer and ale has much decreased of late, there having been only 1460 bolls of barley made into malt liquor

stuff has been discontinued. Between 30 and 40 years ago, a cotton manufactory was begun and carried on here, so as to employ above 200 looms, most of which were in this parish. That also has been given up for some time past, as the same kind of cloth came to be furnished cheaper in other parts of the country. Some years ago there was a china manufactory at Westpans, in this parish, which received some encouragement from the nobility and gentry, as the artist succeeded well in fabricating ornamental china: But as he never could make tea-table china cheap enough for common sale, and had no stock, it was soon given up.

\* It is situated in a garden, where, three score years ago, stood the mansion-house of Westpans, then possessed by a family of the name of JOICE, or JOICK, now extinct, whose estate was what is now called *Drummore*, in the parish of Preston-pans.

† This starch work was given up in 1793.



liquor here, during the above period, many families being now supplied with table beer from Leith or Prestonpans, which they find superior to that brewed here. If it is a wise measure to increase the price of spiritous liquors, by the immoderate use of which both the health and morals of the common people are destroyed, it seems necessary to supply them with a cheap and wholesome beverage in place of it; their ordinary drink, twopenny, being now much degraded in its quality, since the average price of barley has been so high. What may we not look for, from that eminent statesman and patriot, by whose attention to local circumstances, which he so well knows, we have derived so many advantages, and have had so many grievances redressed?—There are salt-pans in two places in this parish, *viz.* *West-pans*, so called, because it is situated west of Preston-pans, anciently called *Salt-Preston*, and *Magdalen-pans*, which lie at the west end of this parish, in both of which are made great quantities of salt.

*Incorporations.*—Besides these, all sorts of handicraft trades are carried on in great perfection at Musselburgh, and are divided into seven companies, or incorporations, having charters from the town of Musselburgh.—There is also an incorporation of sailors, or traffickers, which includes persons of various professions, who have a separate box, and funds of their own; and likewise a society of masons, and another of carters, and many others, who associate together for the sake of their poor.

*Occupations of Women.*—Forty or fifty years ago, and in the times preceding, the city of Edinburgh was chiefly furnished with the product of the garden from Musselburgh and Fisherrow. The nature of the soil, well calculated for early crops, and perhaps the skill they had derived from the



example of the Roman colony, may have led them to this branch of business which they still preserve; though they are far from possessing the monopoly of greens and garden stuffs, which they had in more ancient times. The demand for vegetables has increased ten-fold within these 50 years, and horticulture has been so much encouraged in richer soils near the capital, that all the superiority that the gardeners here can now pretend to, is to furnish the earliest crops of pease and beans, &c. for a week or two, as the markets are soon filled from the more luxuriant garden grounds nearer the city. Connoisseurs in that sort of viand, however, still prefer the produce of the lighter soil, which is less impregnated with dung. The whole produce of the gardens, together with salt, and sand for washing floors, and other articles, till of late that carts have been introduced, were carried in baskets or creels on the backs of women, to be sold in Edinburgh, where, after they had made their market, it was usual for them to return loaded with goods, or parcels of various sorts, for the inhabitants here, or with dirty linens to be washed in the pure water of the Esk. This employment of women, which has certainly prevailed ever since Edinburgh became a considerable city, when joined to that of the fish-wives in Fisherrow, has occasioned a reversal of the state of the sexes in this parish, and has formed a character and manners, in the female sex, which seems peculiar to them, at least in this country \*. The carriers of greens, salt,

\* The women of Bilbao in Spain, according to the account of a traveller, Baron DILLON, (page 174) are even superior in strength and activity to those of Fisherrow. 'In other countries,' says he, 'women are oppressed with the slightest fatigue; here they work as much as the strongest men; unions, ships, carry burdens, and do all the business of porters. The very felons, confined in the mines of Almaden, do nothing in comparison of these females. They go barefooted, and are remarkably active, carrying burdens



salt, &c. are generally the wives of weavers, shoemakers, tailors, or sievemakers, who, being confined by their employments within doors, take charge of the children and family, while the females trudge to Edinburgh about their several branches of business, long before day in winter, and return by mid-day, or later, according to the time spent in selling their commodities. Their usual daily profits may be computed at from 8 d. to 1 s. 3 d. which, besides the free, social, and disengaged life which they lead, is a greater addition to the income of the family, than they could earn by any other branch of industry.—The women, who carry sand to Edinburgh, have the hardest labour, and earn least. For they carry their burden, which is not less than 200 lb. weight, every morning to Edinburgh, return at noon, and pass the afternoon and evening in the quarry, digging the stones, and beating them into sand. By this labour, which is incessant for six days in the week, they gain only about 5 d. a-day.

The *Fish-wives*, as they are all of one class, and educated in it from their infancy, are of a character and manners still more singular than the former, and particularly distinguished by the laborious lives they lead. They are the wives and daughters of fishermen, who generally marry in their own cast, or tribe, as great part of their business, to which they must have been bred, is to gather bait for their husbands, and bait their lines. Four days in the week, however, they carry fish in creels (osier baskets) to Edin-

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burgh;

on their heads, which require two men to lift up. The wife yields not in strength to the husband, nor the sister to the brother; and after a cheerful glass, though heavily loaded, they move on with alacrity, returning home in the evening without the appearance of lassitude, 'o'ten arm and arm, dancing and singing to the tabor and pipe.' This is a very exact picture of the fish-wives here; so similar are the manners of human creatures in similar circumstances.



burgh; and when the boats come in late to the harbour in the forenoon, so as to leave them no more than time to reach Edinburgh before dinner, it is not unusual for them to perform their journey of five miles, by relays, three of them being employed in carrying one basket, and shifting it from one to another every hundred yards, by which means they have been known to arrive at the Fishmarket in less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of an hour\*.

While haddocks were in abundance on the coast, great quantities were taken by the seven boats of Fisherrow; though the best fish for many years have been brought three times a-week from Eyemouth on horseback, and unloaded here, to be parried in creels to Edinburgh, by which means the carriers are enabled to reach home the same day. For seven years past, since the haddocks have disappeared, and few fish are to be caught by the Fisherrow boatmen, on account of their distance from deep water, where the fish are to be found, it is usual for them to meet the boats from the east end of Fife, half way down the frith, and to purchase their fish. In the summer season the boats from that coast frequently run over to Fisherrow, and sell their cargoes to the fish-women here. This they do rather than run up to Leith, because they can dispose of their fish immediately, and sail home again to their respective harbours on the same day, with the ebb tide. The fish-wives who carry to Edinburgh, gain at least 1 s. a-day, and frequently double and triple that sum.

From the kind of life these women lead, it may naturally be concluded, that their manners are peculiar, as they certainly are.

\* It is a well attested fact, that three of them, not many years ago, went from Dunbar to Edinburgh, which is 27 miles, with each of them a load of herrings on her back of 200 lb. in 5 hours. They sometimes carry loads of 250 lb.



are. Having so great a share in the maintenance of the family, they have no small sway in it, as may be inferred from a saying not unusual among them. When speaking of a young woman, reported to be on the point of marriage, "Hout!" say they, "How can she keep a man, who can hardly maintain herself?" As they do the work of men, their manners are masculine, and their strength and activity is equal to their work. Their amusements are of the masculine kind. On holidays they frequently play at *golf*; and on Shrove Tuesday there is a standing match at *foot-ball*, between the married and unmarried women, in which the former are always victors.

Their manner of life, and the business of making their markets, whet their faculties, and make them very dexterous in bargain making. They have likewise a species of rude eloquence, an extreme facility in expressing their feelings by words or gestures, which is very imposing, and enables them to carry their points even against the most wary; and they are too well acquainted with the world, to be abashed when they are detected in any of their arts \*. It is remarkable, that though a considerable degree of licentiousness appears in their freedom of speech, it does not seem to have tainted their morals, in a point where it might have chiefly been expected; there being no class of women, it is believed, who offend less against the seventh commandment, excepting in *words*, than they do. There seems to be no employment, that conduces more to health and good spirits than theirs. Some of them have been brought to

\* It is not here meant to impeach their honesty, for which they are on a par with all other small traffickers. An eminent merchant of Edinburgh told the writer, that he has often dealt with some of them to the amount of L. 600 in a season, for salt herrings, without one line of writing, and never lost a farthing by them.



to bed, and have gone to Edinburgh on foot with their baskets within the week. It is perfectly well ascertained, that one, who was delivered on Wednesday morning, went to town with her creel on the Saturday forenoon following. There is a charm in the free and active life they lead, which renders them averse to all sedentary employments. They never wear shoes or stockings but on Sundays, which is not to be attributed to their poverty, but to the nature of their employment. Strangers from the south, disgusted at this practice, which more or less prevails among the women of the inferior class in this country, and still more with the custom of trampling linens in washing tubs, (which is not yet entirely discontinued, though gradually wearing out), cry out against both as shocking pieces of barbarity. It may be remarked, however, in regard to the former practice, that the Greek and Roman women, (even the ladies in the house), wore neither shoes nor stockings.

From such parents, as might be expected, proceeds a race of children, healthy, active, and robust; and Lord MONBODDO, and the LYCURGUSES of the age, will no doubt look forward with anxiety to the period, when the work that is now done by women, shall come to be entirely performed by horses and carts. For their consolation, however, it may be observed, that we perceive at present no difference between the children of Musselburgh and those of Fisherrow, where the fishers live. Where the labouring poor have enough to feed their children with, there is little doubt, that the race will always prove both strong and numerous.

*Population.*—The population of this parish has increased considerably, since Dr Webster made his computation in 1755, which is chiefly owing to the present thriving state  
 3. of



of the collieries, there having been only one pit open at the former period. The people of all ages were carefully numbered in November and December 1792, when none of the summer lodgers were here, and amounted as follows \*:

I. In the Burgh.

In Muffelburgh, West-pan, &c.	-	-	1640	
In Newbigging,	-	-	490	
			<hr/>	2130
In Fisherrow, Market-gate, Bridgend, &c.	-	-	1799	
In Timber-bush, Spring-garden, Brunstane-mill,				
Magdalene pans, &c.	-	-	86	
			<hr/>	1885
Total in the Burgh,	-	-	<hr/>	4015

II. In the Country Parish.

In the village of Inveresk,	-	-	235	
In the country, south-east,	-	-	238	
In Monkton-hall,	-	-	163	
In Monkton and Cairney,	-	-	120	
In White-hill and New Hailes,	-	-	61	
In Stoney-hill and Stoney-bank, &c.	-	-	48	
			<hr/>	865

Employed in the Coal-works.

In the Coal-pits,	-	-	260	
At Craig-hall,	-	-	252	
			<hr/>	512
Total in the country,	-	-	<hr/>	1377
Total number of souls in the parish,	-	-	-	5598
The number of souls in 1755, when Dr Webster took up his list, was				4645
				<hr/>
Increase †,	-	-	-	747

The

\* These belonging to the burgh of Muffelburgh make one division of the parish, and those in the country, not under their jurisdiction, make another.

† This increase, as was already observed, is chiefly to be imputed to the thriving state of the coal-works; for, though the number of buildings in



The number of registered baptisms has been, at an average for seven years preceding this year, (1793,) not quite 183, which, multiplied by 26, gives only 4758, a number far below that of the actual enumeration at this time.

The BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES and DEATHS, during those years, were as below :

	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1786,	203	49	118
1787,	157	34	126
1788,	211	59	189
1789,	195	48	121
1790,	207	47	149
1791,	144	37	209
1792,	161	47	205
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	1278	321	1117
Average	182 $\frac{4}{7}$	45 $\frac{6}{7}$	159 $\frac{4}{7}$

#### *Occupations.*

in the towns is much increased, and there are many handsome houses, where there were only cottages before, yet several of these must have been demolished, to make room for one good house: as the towns are likewise much resorted to in summer for sea-bathing, there are many good houses, which are not more than half inhabited in winter. There is ground to believe, that this parish was nearly as populous last century as it is now. Because it is certain, that at that time, when every person arrived, at a mature age, was obliged to communicate, there were 3000 communicants in the parish. In those days there were some small, but populous villages scattered about, and many small farms that are now no more. This applies to the first part of this century likewise; for, on an average, of the burials for 12 years, from 1717 to 1728, there died annually 159, which multiplied by 36, produces 5724; whereas from 1769 to 1780 inclusive, the average was only 221, which produces 4356. This last period, however, was probably that of the lowest population, as all the small farms were abolished, and the distilleries, starch-works, &c. were not introduced, and few coal-pits were open. The number of baptisms does not form so just a rule of computation as that of deaths, as many children die without baptism, and not a few of the sectaries shun entering the names of their children in the register, which affords a good reason for *abolishing* a tax that is so little productive.



**Occupations.**—The trades of Musselburgh, with the number of masters in each trade, are as follows :

INCORPORATIONS.			Fishermen,	-	49
Wrights and Smiths,	70		Fish-wives,	-	90
Tailors,	-	30	Salt-wives,	-	50
Shoemakers,	-	96	Wine-merchants,	-	4
Bakers,	-	44	Milliners,	-	2
Gardeners,	-	16	Mantua-makers,	-	10
Weavers,	-	140	Hair-dressers,	-	6
Flethers,	-	50	Perfumers,	-	2
NOT INCORPORATED.			Carters, who have no		
Masons,	-	40	land, and live by car-		
Grocers,	-	10	rying coals, &c.		63

**Ecclesiastical State\*.**—There are four places of worship in this parish, 1. The Established Church ; 2. The Episcopal meeting-house, which has existed in some shape ever since the Revolution, and is attended by a few gentlemen's families ; 3. A Burgher Seceding meeting-house, which was built about 25 years ago ; 4. A Church of Relief, which was erected in the year 1783, but would not have been built had the church been large enough for the parish. St Michael's of Inveresk, the parish-church, is of great antiquity, but uncertain date. It is most likely, that it was built soon after the introduction of Christianity, out of the ruins

\* The ministers of this parish since the Reformation have been, first, Mr Andrew Blackhall, who was admitted previous to the year 1591, and died in 1609 ; to him succeeded Mr Adam Colt, who, with his son, Mr Oliver Colt, filled up the rest of that century till the year 1679. Mr Arthur Millar was ordained in 1680 ; to whom Mr Richard Howison succeeded about the year 1690. Mr John Williamson was ordained here in 1701 ; on whose death in 1739, Mr Frederick Carmichael was admitted minister ; who having been translated to Edinburgh in the year 1747, the present incumbent was ordained here on the 2d of August 1748, who is married, but has no children alive.



ruins of the Roman fort. The stone it is built of appears to be the same with those discovered in the ruins of the pretorium. There are evidently many old stones, and many Roman bricks in the building. There seems besides to have been no good reason, for chusing a situation so distant from the towns, which have always been the most populous parts of the parish, had it not been for the conveniency of using the old materials. The body of the church is 102 feet long, and only 23 feet wide within the walls; but there are four aisles, two on each side of the church, that have been built at different periods, and double rows of galleries in the ends of the church. The whole is now in a ruinous condition, and is truly a disgrace to the parish. Several attempts have lately been made to have it rebuilt, either in its present situation, or on one more commodious, which have failed. This state of the church is not only of no small disadvantage to the poors funds, but to the religion and morals of the people, as it leaves such a number of them to be infected with sectarian principles, which, without laying any thing to the charge of the present incumbents, are at best uncertain. The situation of the church is remarkably fine, not only on account of the extensive view of the country which it commands, though the hill is not more than 50 feet above the level of the sea, but likewise as a military station, as was formerly observed \*. There are two mounts or ramparts, one on the north side, and another on the east end of the church-yard †, that

\* Oliver Cromwell's cavalry lay there for 6 or 8 weeks, in 1650, while his foot were camped on the links of Musselburgh. The church served Oliver as a stable for his cavalry. The place, where his own tent was erected, is still shewn on Musselburgh links.

† The eastern rampart having been levelled 5 or 6 years ago to extend the burying-ground, and a foundation for a monument having been lately dug



that are called *Oliver's Mounts*, and are supposed to have been batteries of Cromwell's, one to command the bridge, and the other to defend his magazine which was in the village of Inveresk. Lord HAILES used to alledge that they were of greater antiquity than Cromwell, and might have been ramparts of a Roman camp; but the circumstance mentioned in the note affords a strong presumption of the contrary.

The stipend, from 1650 till 1781, was 1 chalders of wheat, 1 of barley, and 1 of oats; and L. 66, 10 s. in money. In 1781, the present incumbent obtained an augmentation, and the stipend is now 2 chalders of wheat, 3 of barley, and 3 of oats, paid in money, at the fiars of Mid-Lothian, and L. 62 in money, including communion-elements. There is likewise a glebe of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acres inclosed by the present incumbent, together with a house and garden, and a field before the house, making in all an acre, which were given by the town of Musselburgh to the minister of the parish, when the manse was built in 1681; for an addition to which field, made in 1758, he pays 1 s. yearly of feu-duty. Since 1702 there has been an assistant probationer, for whom there is a very slender support, out of certain funds allotted for that purpose. The Duke of Buccleugh is patron of the parish.

*Burgh.*—Musselburgh is a very ancient burgh of Regality\*, and was once called *Musselburgh-shire*. The mill,

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dug, as deep as 7 feet below the surface of the church-yard, and 11 below the top of the mount, there were found many human bones in full preservation, which seems to furnish proof that the ramparts had been erected since the field was inclosed for a church-yard.

\* Before the Reformation, it was an ecclesiastical burgh belonging, *inter alia*, to the abbacy of Dunfermline. It was disjoined by King James VI. from that abbacy, and given in donation to one of the family of Lauderdale; and when the whole abbacy was given to Queen Ann of Denmark, she reclaimed the regality of Musselburgh, as comprehended under



to which this regality was affixed and thirled, is called the *Sbire-mill*, and the wood along the banks of the river, of which little remains, is called *Sbire-wood*; and *Sberiff-bail* at the extremity of the regality has acquired its name in the same manner.

Musselburgh is an ancient ecclesiastical and incorporate burgh, holden of the Lord Superior of the Regality, who is now the Duke of Buccleugh, on payment of certain sums annually as quit-rent or feu-duty. The territories of the Burgh extend along the sea-coast, the whole length of the parish, and are about two measured miles and a half in length, and from one half to one fourth of a mile in breadth.

*Charters.*—The most ancient charter of this burgh now extant is dated December 11. 1562, and is granted by ROBERT Commendator of Dunfermline, with consent of the whole members of the convent. It narrates, ‘That the  
“title-deeds belonging to the burgh were burnt by their  
“enemies the English, after the fatal battle of Pinkie;  
“therefore they of new grant, dispone, and confirm to the  
“present bailies, community and inhabitants of Mussel-  
“burgh, and to their successors,” &c. which is not inconsistent with what has been before mentioned as a traditional account, *viz.* That their first charter was procured, by means of their attention to Randolph Earl of Murray, who died in their town. This charter is confirmed by many subsequent charters and acts of Parliament, particularly

under the gift. But the proprietor contended, that it had *ab ante* been gifted to him, which defence was sustained. Certain parts, however, of this regality and parish have been disjoined, and added to the parishes of Cranston, Newton, and Dalkeith. This Lordship was held by the family of Lauderdale till the year 1709, when it was purchased by the Dukes of Monmouth and Buccleugh.



lady by a charter from the Earl, afterwards Duke of Lauderdale, dated *anno* 1670, in which all their ancient rights and privileges are narrated and confirmed.

*Government, &c.*—The town-council consists of 18 members, 10 being elected from Musselburgh, and 8 from Fisherrow. The whole regality in this division is considered as Fisherrow, except what is within the ancient ports of Musselburgh. Out of these, two bailies and a treasurer are annually elected, but may not be re-elected more than two years without intermission. Two councillors go off annually by a vote of the council, and two are chosen in their room by the same body. Their revenue is now very considerable, arising from feu-duties paid by the proprietors of all the houses in their territories, and from their lands and mills, and the shore-dues of their harbour. The two last are of a fluctuating nature, and have increased of late, the one on account of their good state, and the other by means of the great resort of shipping with grain for the distillery. Were the last to be given up, the dues of the harbour would have little else to support them but fishing boats, and the business of the two or three timber and iron merchants settled there, which indeed is considerable. The annual revenue of the town is not less than L. 1500.—The magistrates, by their title-deeds are empowered to hold a court of record, and issue precepts both on their decrees and registrations. They are empowered to grant infeftment by hasp and staple, *more burgi*; but their clerk is not entitled to a protocol record of infeftments, as in burghs royal. Their infeftments must be recorded in the county register; but being an incorporated burgh, under that title it is excepted out of the late jurisdiction act, and still remains possessed of its ancient



cient privileges \*. Upon the whole, this burgh has all the privileges of any royal burgh in Scotland, except those of voting for a member of Parliament, and sending a delegate to the Convention of Burghs.

*Archery.*—There is an ancient silver arrow in this town, which is shot for annually by the Royal Company of Archers. The victor receives L. 1, 10 s. Sterling from the town, and a riddel full of claret, viz. one dozen, and is bound to append a medal of gold or silver to the arrow, before the next year's annual meeting. The earliest date of any of the medals is 1603; but there are a few that are more ancient without a date. This ancient mode of warfare having gone into disuse, since the invention of fire arms, was likely to have fallen into total oblivion, had it not been for those ancient prizes established in different parts of the kingdom, which preserved the remembrance of it; but it has been lately revived in Edinburgh, and other cities and towns in England, as well as in Scotland, and has become an exercise as fashionable as it is manly. Archery is an exercise peculiarly well suited to large cities, where young gentlemen of various professions have neither leisure nor opportunity for the diversions of the chase and the field.

*Golf.*—The golf, so long a favourite and peculiar exercise of the Scots, is much in use here †. Children are  
trained

\* In the year 1632, Musselburgh was, by a charter under the great seal, erected into a royal burgh; but the magistrates of Edinburgh obtained a decret of reduction of that charter before the privy-council, dated November 30. 1632, in consequence of a compromise with the magistrates of Musselburgh.

† The following account of the Dutch game, called KOLF, was very obligingly communicated by the Rev. Mr WALKER, one of the ministers



trained to it in their early days, being enticed by the beauty of the links, (which lie on each side of the river, between

of the Canongate, whose former residence in Holland has enabled him to give a very satisfactory description of that game.

The Dutch game called *Kolf*, from which the word *GOLF* is derived, as both are probably from the Greek word, *κολοφος*, is played in an inclosed rectangular area of about 60 feet by 25. The floor, which is a composition of sand, clay, and pitch, is made as level as a billiard table, and the inclosing walls are for two feet above the floor, faced either with polished stone, or sheet lead, that they may cause the ball rebound with accuracy. At about 8 or 10 feet from each end wall, a circular post of about 5 inches diameter is placed precisely in the middle of the area with regard to breadth, consequently opposite the one to the other, and at the distance of 40 feet or thereby. The balls used in the game are about the size of cricket balls, made perfectly round and elastic, covered with soft leather, and sewed with fine wire. The clubs are from three to four feet long, with stiff shafts. The heads are of brass, and the face, with which the ball is struck, is perfectly smooth, having no inclination, such as might have a tendency to raise the ball from the ground. The angle, which the head makes with the shaft, is nearly the same with that of the *putting* clubs used at golf. The game may be played by any number, either in parties against each other, or each person for himself; and the contest is, who shall hit the two posts in the fewest strokes, and make his ball retreat from the last one with such an accurate length, as that it shall lie nearest to the opposite end wall of the area. The first stroke is made from within a few inches of what is called the *beginning post*, and the player directs his ball as precisely as he can on the opposite one, that he may hit it if possible, computing at the same time the force of his stroke, so that, should he miss it, (which from the distance may be supposed to be most frequently the case), his ball may rebound from the end wall, and lie within a moderate distance of the post, and before it, *i. e.* between the two posts, rather than between the post and the end wall. The reason of preferring this situation of the ball, will appear by reflecting how much easier it is in that case to send the ball, after striking the post, back again towards the other one. The skill of the game consists in striking the post in such a way, whether full or otherwise, as may send the ball towards the place where you wish it to rest. It combines the address required both in golf and in billiards. Five points make the game; and such is the difference between a capital and an ordinary player, that the former will give four points



tween the two towns and the sea), and excited by the example of their parents. To preserve the taste for this ancient diversion, a company of gentlemen, about 18 years ago, purchased a silver cup, which is played for annually in the month of April, and is for a year in the possession of the victor, who is obliged to append a medal to it, when he restores it to the company. The inhabitants of Musselburgh had need to watch over this precious field for health and exercise, lest in some unlucky period the magistrates and council should be induced to feu it out, on pretence of increasing the revenue of the town. At present it is a common, to which every burgess has a right of pasturage; although part of it has already been let off in feu, which has made the entry to the town, both from the east and west, less free and open than it formerly was, and greatly decreased the beauty and amenity of the place.

*Education.*—There is now, and there has long been a flourishing grammar school in this place, under the patronage of the magistrates and town-council, (with the minister); who, upon an agreement with the heritors of the parish, settled a salary on the master, payable out of their funds, in lieu of which they accepted of the dues arising from mortcloths

points of the game, and frequently be the winner. This superiority of play I experienced myself at a *kolf baan* near the Hague, after I had considerable practice in the game, and was, in fact, no mean player. With the advantage of three points I was completely beaten, and even when I got four, I could hardly preserve any tolerable equality.

A great advantage of the game of *kolf* is, that it can be played at all seasons, and in all weather, as the place is as close as a house, while, at the same time, by opening the windows, which are very large, you may have a sufficiency of air. There is generally a kind of apartment at one end of the *kolf baan*, two or three steps higher than the floor, where spectators may enjoy the sight of the game, as far as the clouds of tobacco smoke, with which they commonly fill it, will allow.



mortcloths at funerals, which were part of the funds at the disposal of the heritors. The schoolmaster has a salary of L. 28 *per annum*, and a good house and garden. The town-council and principal inhabitants have lately enabled their last incumbent, who in his younger years had a flourishing school, to retire on a pension; and Mr John Taylor, from Kelfo, has been appointed in his room, with so much approbation of the public, that his house is already filled with boarders. This town is considered as in so healthy a situation, and is so convenient for education, (having the advantage of easily procuring the best masters from Edinburgh, for the French and Italian languages, music, drawing, and other accomplishments), that of late years boarding schools for young ladies have met with great encouragement. At present there are two of much eminence, of which Miss Grant and Miss Primrose are governesses; besides a third at a lower board, by Miss Neilson, who merits and meets with encouragement. There are several very good writing-masters in the place; and Mr Thomas Salmon, teacher of dancing, has been established here for more than 30 years, and continues to teach with increasing reputation. While the masters and mistresses of those schools preserve their reputation for ability, diligence, and tender care of the children, and continue to admit boarders and scholars at a reasonable rate, the additional advantages of situation cannot fail to procure them full employment. By means of the bounty of the Dukes of Buccleugh, and the contributions of some pious and charitable ladies of the parish, there have been Sunday's schools for these three years, both in Musselburgh and Fisherrow; which, though unnecessary in general in Scotland, where the parish schools are sufficient, yet are of much utility here, where, on account of the poverty and constant occupations of the parents, the instruction of many children was neglected.



*Surgeons, Diseases, &c.*—There are four surgeons in this parish, who, having been all well educated to their profession, are, according to the mode of the country, consulted and confided in as physicians, except in extraordinary cases, when doctors graduate are called from Edinburgh ; which, being so nigh at hand, is the reason why no physician has ever settled here. The parish is remarkably healthy. Epidemical distempers are seldom fatal, except the small-pox, which now and then sweeps away too many children. Inoculation is by no means universal, which is probably owing to the influence the sectaries have over the minds of their neighbours ; an observation that is derived from a perusal of many of the Statistical Accounts already published. They have, nevertheless, great encouragement to extend the practice, as one of the surgeons, who has not been settled here above 3 years, has inoculated above 200, without having lost one. The havock hitherto made by the small-pox, however, cannot be very great, as during the whole course of these 40 years last, (the funeral records of which the writer of this account has examined), the highest average for 12 years is 159, and the greatest number in any one of these years is only 219. Forty years ago, there were but three persons in the parish who had ever been troubled with the gout, and two of those were not natives. At present they are chiefly strangers who are troubled with that disease. The gravel is also rare, which may be owing to the goodness of the water, or rather to that new brisk small beer without hops, which is the common beverage of the people ; though not so much as it was formerly, as the twopenny has degenerated ; and cheap whisky, that bane of the health and morals of the people, has been substituted in its room. Nothing seems more worthy of the attention of the Legislature, than those circumstances, however minute, which tend to corrupt the morals of the commons of this country, who have so long been remarkable for sobriety and virtue.

*Longevity.*



*Longevity.*—There are always many aged people in this parish, and what is of more importance, they preserve their vigour and their faculties to the last. There are, and have been many women past fourscore, who travel to Edinburgh with their creels, and return by mid-day; men of the same age are many of them not past labour; and there are a few persons at present living in this parish, who, though approaching to 90, are as stout and lively as some others of threescore \*. The oldest person now living is a woman of 94, who carried the creel in her youth, and still spins.

*Law.*—There is but one resident writer or attorney in the parish, who is the town-clerk. As all the small causes commence at the town-court, the parties in general are induced to acquiesce in the first judgment, whether they think it right or wrong, as there is no advice at hand to tempt them to carry it farther. Custom has taught them to submit to the first decision, which happily prevents the entail of feuds and endless litigation upon them.

*Morals and Manners.*—The people of this parish are not free from such vices, as are incident to persons in their situation. The faults that are attached to dealers in small articles are not uncommon among them, but great crimes are very rare. Large cities are the nurseries of crimes, as they furnish the means of privacy and concealment, as well as of temptation. But populous villages, if not favourable to some of the virtues, are at least discouraging to scandalous vices; because, in so close a neighbourhood, every action is perfectly known, and there is no censorial power half so effectual as the opinion of equals. Few great

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crimes

\* Robert Mitchell, a Chelsea-pensioner and ass-driver, died last winter (1792) aged 91, and might probably have lived to 100, had he not first broke his leg, and afterwards, before it was recovered, fallen into the fire, and been scorched to death.



crimes have been attempted, or brought to light in this parish \*. The manners of the people are open and hospitable, though not so gentle and mild as might be expected from the subserviency of their state. But the influence women have upon manners is prevalent in every condition †. The change in

\* No person has been convicted of a capital felony since the year 1728, when the famous Maggy Dickson was condemned and executed for child-murder in the Grass-market of Edinburgh, and was restored to life in a cart, on her way to Musselburgh to be buried. Her husband had been absent for a year, working in the keels at Newcastle, when Maggy fell with child, and to conceal her shame, was tempted to put it to death. She kept an ale-house in a neighbouring parish for many years after she came to life again, which was much resorted to from curiosity. But Margaret, in spite of her narrow escape, was not reformed, according to the account given by her contemporaries, but lived, and *died again*, in profligacy. For 25 years past the *Stool of Repentance*, that relic of Popery, has been discontinued in this parish, and one strong temptation to this crime of child-murder, which formerly prevailed so much, has been withdrawn. This branch of penance has been too long a disgrace to the country, and highly degrading to a respectable body of men, who sat monthly in judgment, with little else to do, than to find out the fathers of the children of licentious women. It had a still worse effect than that of degrading the clergy, as it impressed on the minds of the people an idea, that there is no other crime great enough to deserve ecclesiastical censures, but fornication.

† No change has ever been more complete and rapid, than that of manners, in many respects, within these 40 years. In the beginning of that period, penny bridals, promiscuous dancing, and cards and dice were absented from and shunned by the grave, because they had been prohibited in the acts of Assemblies of an ancient date. Clergymen, in those days, were sometimes libelled for dancing and playing at cards, even in private houses; as well as for shaving or dressing their hair, or dining in a neighbour's house on the Lord's day. Happily those *stilted vices*, an easy abstinence from which gave credit to the whole train of *artificial virtues* in a false and hypocritical character, are now no more; and clergymen and their families are on the same footing in respect to all innocent amusements



in the dress, too, of mechanics and labourers, is as remarkable here as any where in Scotland, as, indeed, might well be expected from their vicinity to the capital.

*Prices*

ments, with persons of the same rank in any other profession, as far as is consistent with the dignity and gravity of the clerical character.

It is well known, that the manners of a people are stronger than those laws which pretend to regulate them, when such regulations are founded on false principles. Of this there is a recent example, which, being hardly of importance enough to enter into general history, may not improperly be recorded here.

Many persons now alive must remember with what a fit of zeal and hypocrisy, (for they were mingled), the minds of great numbers were seized, when the tragedy of Douglas was first acted in Edinburgh, in December 1756. That play is now of the most established reputation, and is justly and universally admired as one of the most excellent compositions in the English language. On occasion of its first appearance on the theatre, a few clergymen, about seven or eight who were particular friends of the author, in order to give him countenance, once or twice attended the representation of it, a practice at that time not prevalent, though not altogether unusual. Such a storm was instantly raised against those clergymen, that one would have thought that religion and morals had then received a mortal blow, although plays had been frequented for a long period in Edinburgh, by many people of the most unexceptionable characters, without animadversion of any kind; and though several of the most eminent clergymen were well known to have attended the theatre, when occasionally in London.

The presbytery of Edinburgh and the presbytery of Glasgow met again and again on the subject; wrote warm letters to the several presbyteries, to whom any of the offending clergymen belonged, insisting on their proceeding against them, and bringing them to condign punishment; emitted admonitions and exhortations against the offensive practice, and ordered them to be read in all the churches within their bounds. In every instance, however, except two, one of which was carried as far as the Supreme Court, and of which the issue is to be seen in the magazines of that



*Prices of Provisions, &c.*—The prices of provisions here are entirely regulated by the rates at Edinburgh, with which there

that time, the offence was done away in the most private manner by the several presbyteries who had been wrote to. But even the General Assembly was induced to make a declaratory act against the stage, enjoining all presbyteries to *take care that none of the ministers of this church do upon any occasion attend the theatre.* In short, the country was excited into a flame on this trifling occasion, though not quite so strong and extensive, yet similar to that which was raised 23 years afterwards in opposition to the Popish bill.

This violent explosion of zeal, which certainly does no honour to the annals of the church, was not wholly owing to the offence taken by some well meaning people. It was well known that some share of political enmity was added to it, which served to blend parties together in a manner theretofore unknown on so slight an occasion. The spirit of ecclesiastical faction likewise mingled deeply in it, and contributed to increase the clamour, in order to fix a stigma on certain clergymen, who were looked upon with a jealous eye, by some who then acted as leaders of the church.

But what was the sequel? The plans of ecclesiastical intrigue were unveiled, and sunk into contempt. The course of public sentiment and manners becoming gradually more liberal, proved too strong for such narrow and bigotted principles. Mr John Home, the author of the tragedy in question, the superior merit of which was already generally acknowledged, having new views opened up to him, demitted his charge in the month of June 1757, and withdrew from the church without the least animadversion on his conduct. In a few years clergymen from many different parts of the country, as well as some in town, occasionally attended the theatre, and several of the most respectable ministers continue to do so, not only without any censure from the church, but without any sort of offence being given or taken.

It is well known, that the clergy of no Christian country in the world are in general more blameless in their morals, and less reprehensible in their conduct, than those of the Church of Scotland; and while they are  
not



there is an almost hourly communication. The fishwives will rather take their chance of a market in that city, than sell their fish at a reasonable price here; inasmuch, that the people of this parish are chiefly supplied by women from Prestonpans, who are too distant to go and return with their burdens daily to Edinburgh; and who, when they have not fish from their own boats, are glad to purchase them when they can get them at Fisherrow, and distribute them among the opulent families here. Notwithstanding all this, fish was long a cheap article here, till the demand at Edinburgh increased, and the haddocks left our coasts about six or seven years ago. Fortunately they have again returned in small numbers about the time of drawing up this account, namely in June 1793. The only article we have cheaper than at Edinburgh is coals, which is owing to our vicinity to the pits; and the only articles we have, perhaps, of better quality, are the produce of the garden and bread. This last advantage we owe to our lying between Edinburgh, and the best wheat farms in East Lothian, from whence our bakers are supplied. The bakers here, about 50 or 60 years ago, more than half furnished Edinburgh and Leith with wheat bread, and still continue to vend a considerable quantity there, notwithstanding their paying higher mill dues than are paid any where else; but they have cheaper houses and firing than can be had in the city, which more than compensates them for the high price of meal. It must be observed, however,

not likely to abuse such a privilege, it may well be presumed that occasional access to the theatre, especially when the most eminent actors have appeared, has contributed to improve their style and pronunciation, and to banish from the pulpit that rustic vulgarity with which it was once approached.



ever, that a considerable quantity of Edinburgh bread is also vended here. The necessaries of life are no doubt much dearer than they were thirty or forty years ago, but the wages of labour have increased in a much greater proportion. For 12 years preceding 1760, the price of beef here by agreement was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. for one half of the year, and 3 d. for the other half. It is now at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. and 4 d. But the wages of labour have, in most cases, been more than doubled since that period; so that the inferior classes, who subsist by their labour, and are understood chiefly to use the necessaries of life, and not its luxuries, have no ground of complaint. On the contrary, their condition is much improved, especially as the taxes do not extend to many articles of their consumption. Soap, candles, and leather are the only necessaries that are taxed which are within their reach. If they *will* have whisky, it is fit they should pay for it. Malt liquor is still very cheap, *viz.*  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. *per* pint, or 2 English quarts, though it must be owned, it is inferior in quality to what it formerly was, on account of the high price of barley; which, it is to be hoped, may not be of long continuance, as the first very good crop may reduce it as much as was done in the year 1779.

If any class of men have ground of complaint amidst the high prosperity of their country, it is those of ranks superior to the labourers and artisans, who, having fixed salaries, or unimprovable livings, cannot now afford to live as they have formerly done; many articles for the table, besides butcher's meat, which has been raised above one fourth, having been doubled or tripled within these 40 years. But still it is more owing to the change in the modes of living, than to the increased price of provisions, that difficulties are incurred; for this creates a necessity of  
its



its kind. How few have philosophy or fortitude enough to live in a style inferior to their neighbours and equals! When all are equally poor, none but spendthrifts are ever in distress. As the wages of labour are more than doubled, the manner of living is entirely changed. Until about the year 1760, the working people used no bread but oat cakes. Since that time, however, the use of wheaten bread has been increasing; and now, bread made of oat meal is not to be met with, but in houses of gentlemen as a rarity. At the period before mentioned, working people used little meat but salted mutton in winter. Salt herrings too made great part of their *kitchen*, (*opsonium*), a word that here signifies whatever gives a relish to bread or *porridge*; the last of which is not yet in disuse, but still continues, with milk or ale, to make the breakfasts and suppers of children and apprentices. Through the year fresh or new killed beef is now substituted for salted.

*Markets.*—There is a market for butcher's meat in Musselburgh every Friday, and one in Fisherrow every Tuesday. There is a much greater number of animals killed here, than are consumed in the parish, to the amount of some hundreds of sheep weekly in the season, and a proportional number of black cattle, lambs, calves, and hogs. But they are chiefly for the supply of the markets of Edinburgh and Leith, which are frequented by our butchers. From this it may be inferred, that our provisions are equally good with theirs, excepting some choice beasts that must fall to the share of the Edinburgh butchers. Veal too must be excepted, which is rarely good here, and has lately degenerated. Our pork, which is chiefly purchased from the farmers of East Lothian, is remarkably fine; and our lamb is superior in quality, as the butchers have inclosures at hand, in which they are kept till they are wanted.

Poor,



*Poor* \*.—Since the year 1781, the poor of this parish have been pensioned in their own houses. Their number is

\* Soon after the present incumbent was settled in this parish, the heritors and other principal inhabitants, with the laudable design of providing better for their poor, especially aged persons and children, erected and furnished a poor-house, or work-house, at very considerable expence, which was ready for the reception of the poor at Whit Sunday 1751. The best rules of management that could be devised or collected were ordained, and the house went on for many years, to the comfort of the poor, and the satisfaction of all concerned. An additional expence, as was expected, besides the building, was incurred for the maintenance of the poor, and an assessment was laid on the heritors that year for the first time. The object then being not the most parsimonious plan of provision for the poor, but their comfortable subsistence, and the preservation of the young among them, from idleness and profligacy: The arguments arising from *the danger*, by means of such institutions, of *erasing the sense of shame* of dependence on the poor's funds from the minds of the indigent, or of *blunting the feelings of compassion* in the hearts of their relations, did not occur; or if they had, would have been considered as the suggestions of *avarice*, in no respect applicable to the state of this parish. The assessment was continued; and as the town was populous, it was thought no more than justice that they should contribute their share. They accordingly were assessed of a certain sum by the annual meeting of heritors and elders which was proportioned among them by a large committee of the inhabitants appointed by the meeting. By this means those who frequented any of the meeting-houses, or absented altogether from public worship, were made to contribute their share, as well as those who regularly attended the Established Church, and paid both by their collections and by assessment.

At the end of 30 years, many difficulties having occurred from the backwardness of some to pay their assessments, and a constant intrigue among the inhabitants about furnishing necessaries, or employing the poor, the most disinterested among the managers became heartily tired of the business. Add to this, that the house and furniture came now to need a thorough repair, which could not have cost less than L. 300 Sterling; which, together with an opinion, that the poor could be maintained cheaper in their own houses than in the poor-house, induced the heritors, and concerned, after two years deliberation, to sell the house, and add the proceeds to the poor's funds, which was accordingly done in the year 1781.



is about 110, none of whom are allowed more than 1s. *per* week, and some have only 6d\*. an allowance so scanty, as leaves them but in a very wretched state, when they are entirely past their industry: and were it not for private charities, or subsidiary funds, must be wholly insufficient to support nature. The sum laid on for the support of the poor has for some time been L. 215, of which above L. 65 is paid from the collections; which have fallen so much short of the disbursements on account of bad payments, and controversies that have arisen, that the heritors and session have been obliged to encroach on the price they received for the poor-house. Of late years it has been thought proper to follow the directions formerly given by the Sheriff of the county, and to lay on the assessment for the poor, according to a rental of all property in the parish, as the most certain and equal rule † by which to levy the poor's funds. Various difficulties

\* For eight or ten years after the house was first occupied by the poor, they were maintained at the very cheap rate of 1 s. 2½ d. *per* week a piece.

† It is remarkable, that not a few of the clergy in their Statistical Accounts, exclaim against the change, that of late years has been made in many parishes, in their method of maintaining the poor, which has not been entirely by collections at the church doors, as formerly, but partly by assessments, and thence take occasion to warn their country against *poor's rates* as a heavy burden, that even England is not able to bear. But these writers do not seem to have sufficiently attended to the alterations in the state of the country in general, and of many parishes in particular, within this half century. They seem not to have adverted to it, that the poor have increased, and that the weekly collections have been diminished, for various reasons, in many parishes during that period, while the expence of maintaining any poor person has necessarily increased, with the increased prices of labour, and the necessaries of life.

It cannot be denied, that where the collections are sufficient for the purpose, there is no plan for the maintenance of the poor that can be compared



difficulties having occurred, respecting the nature of the property liable to the payment of these assessments, particularly

pared to it, either in respect to the nature of the fund, or the purity of its management. But where they are insufficient, recourse must be had to assessments, or *poors-rates*, as they are frequently called, *per invidiam*; because that is a term that ought to occasion no small alarm, though in very material respects, they are entirely different from the tax of that name in England \*. Those assessments, when recourse must be had to them, ought in justice and common sense to be as equally and fairly laid on as possible. In country parishes, where there are no other inhabitants, but landholders and their tenants and cottagers, when the collections are insufficient, the burden must fall upon the land, that is, on the heritors and their tenants, because the cottagers are unable to pay. But in large towns such as this, where the rents of houses and other rentable property are equal to that of the land rent, it would be quite unreasonable and unjust to throw the whole burden on the land; and no rule seems to be more equal than the rental, deducting a fourth for repairs, and always exempting the houses below a certain sum, to vary according to the circumstances of the place. I know few subjects, that more deserve the attention of all men of property of this country, landed or otherwise, than the maintenance of the poor. At present, when they are past their labour, they are wretchedly ill supported in towns, though nothing can be laid to the charge of the administrators for the poor, who manage their scanty funds with the utmost frugality. Were it not for the great number of societies in this, and in other parishes of like description, who, by means of weekly subscriptions of small sums, raise a fund for aid to their members, when they are laid off their work by sickness, or for annuities to their widows after their decease, the poor would become a much heavier load on the opulent than they are at present.

There are many useful hints and observations on this subject in the different Statistical Accounts; and none, that the writer of this article has observed, better than those that are to be found in the account of the parish of *Portsmouth*, (vol. 5. p. 156). It must be observed, however, that the author, after having stated the disadvantages that arise from a legal provision, immediately proposes to have the subscriptions of societies authorized by law, which seems to be making them liable to those very disadvantages which he had just stated. For the method he approves of seems little different from

\* See Statistical Account of *Alloa*, vol. 3. No. 400



cularly whether *mills* and *coal rents* were legally subject to them, law-suits have been carried on, which still remain undecided at the end of five years. This proves either that the laws on the subject are very defective, or that law procedure is more dilatory than could have been expected, in matters that relate to the police of the country.—Notwithstanding the difficulty there is in providing for the ordinary poor, it must be owned, that persons of condition in this parish, (not to mention the family of the patron, which resides half the year in the neighbourhood, and is a never-failing source of beneficence to all proper objects), are always ready to relieve the wants of the indigent, who are not on the ordinary roll.

*Advantages.*—The parish of Inveresk has every advantage in point of air and climate, that is to be found in any situation so far north. It is pleasant and healthy, and none but

from that established here, viz. an assessment on all the inhabitants, except the poorest class, by a rental; excepting only in this, that it is not under the authority of law. The one is hitherto voluntary, and the other is not. But experience teaches us, that no contribution remains long just and equal, that is *voluntary*. Perhaps it may be wise, in many cases, to give up the former, for the sake of the greater energy of the latter. What the writer hereof would humbly suggest to the leading people of this country is, a well-digested poor law; and in the mean time, he would earnestly call the attention of residing heritors to the care of the poor, who should have two objects constantly in their eye, 1st, A comfortable provision for such as are past their labour, and for children; and 2dly, Good economy, and the most equal and impartial method of raising the funds. Where the Sundays collections are sufficient, nothing can be superadded to the care and vigilance, the disinterestedness and frugality of the elders of the respective parishes, but a little more inspection and encouragement than is usual on the part of the heritors.

N. B. There has an act of Parliament passed in July 1793, putting all the charitable societies who chuse to accept of it under legal protection which extends to Scotland.



but those who are disposed to be idle can want employment. Their subserviency to the city of Edinburgh for many necessary articles furnishes constant business to the industrious, and a ready market for every thing they carry there. As there are no great manufactories established in the parish, there is no sudden fluctuation between riches and poverty, and consequently no great hopes or fears are excited; and no great risks are run in the humble, but steady and safe employments, in which the bulk of the people are engaged. They are in general contented and unambitious, and would always be so, did not their constant intercourse with the capital, which is of so much advantage to them in other respects, expose them to the false arts of indefatigable seducers, who, under pretence of *Reform*, wish to *subvert* the present happy government, and introduce democratical anarchy in its stead. They have all the pleasures of an extensive society, and of a constant intercourse with strangers, which has the effect of exciting social affections, and introducing urbanity among them. Being the inhabitants of a very ancient burgh, and many possessors of tenements having enjoyed them from father to son for hundreds of years, there is a kind of *nobleſſe*, so to call them, among the burghers, who think themselves entitled to more respect than the rest, and who often deserve and obtain it. Add to this, that here may be learned all the necessary arts or trades, and likewise the rudiments of a liberal education, to qualify the youth of both sexes for the several lines of life in which they may be engaged, at less expence, and with less danger of the infection of bad company and example than in large cities.

*Improvements.*—Within the course of 40 years, their condition has been greatly improved, as has been mentioned already,



already, and could be pointed out in many more instances. One other article needs only be mentioned, which is the improvement of their houses, that has taken place of late years. The materials for building are cheap and at hand, and the proprietors have rebuilt many of their old cottages, and made handsome and commodious dwellings for themselves, with upper floors, to let for sea-bathing, or for summer lodgings; which the inhabitants of the capital find very agreeable and convenient, as they are at so small a distance from the scene of their business, and they can have the opportunity of going to town every day in one of the five stage-coaches established here, or in those that pass from Preston-Pans, Haddington, or Dunbar, from nine in the morning till two in the afternoon.

*Disadvantages.*—There are few or no disadvantages to which this place is liable, that are not common to many other burghs of the same description, and which chiefly arise from a defective and careless police. This is owing to the magistrates being too much on a level with the other burghers, and too dependent on the good will of the populace for their livelihood, which checks their exertion of authority, and makes them timid in the execution of the laws\*. There is one horrid nuisance, which was formerly almost

\* Above 30 years ago, there were a few independent gentlemen admitted to the council and magistracy, who gave a beginning to a stricter method of police, and who paid due attention to markets, and weights, and measures, and to the cleansing of the streets and lanes, and the suppression of vagrants, and who, notwithstanding, preserved their popularity with all ranks. Had their plans been followed out, this village, considering the great rise in their revenue since that period, must have been the most commodious and inviting place to live in of any in Scotland. It is the more inconceivable in them, to preclude themselves from the weight and energy of persons of the above description, that they have no political power, not being



almost entirely abolished, which now prevails more than ever; that is, the killing animals in the streets; a practice contrary to law, most unwholesome, and highly offensive. Considering that the place is so much resorted to for education, it is not merely a shame; it is criminal, to suffer the youth to be daily shocked with, or hardened to the dying agonies of animals, and to be obliged to wade in filth and gore in passing along the streets.—The state of the *church* too is a great disadvantage to the parish. Besides its ruinous condition, it is too small, and at too great a distance from the populous towns, which are almost four fifths of the whole. It has been observed, that this place had the advantage of an almost hourly communication with Edinburgh, by means of fishwives, carriers of all sorts, and stage-coaches, which rendered the conveyance of letters both cheap and commodious. Of late, on pretence of serving the place, the General Post-office has extended a penny-post over us, which turns out a real grievance. Our correspondents at Edinburgh pay a penny on putting in their letters, and we have three halfpence to pay when they are delivered here. It is not believed, that there is such a piece of *extortion* in any part of Great Britain. In London, one penny is all that is exacted. This must appear doubly oppressive, when it is considered, that we are not allowed the benefit of our situation, 6 miles eastward on the post-road to London, but have our letters carried *past us* to Edinburgh, and *sent back* at the additional charge of a penny *per letter*. This is a real grievance, that deserves more attention than all the *imaginary* ones, that have of late been so loudly complained of.

#### *Roads.*

being a royal burgh; and therefore they *can*, or at least *ought*, to have no other object, but the laying out of the revenue for the good of the community.



*Roads.*—The roads, too, in the parish are thought to be in a worse state than any in the county of Mid-Lothian, for which the magistrates are not to blame, as their street, which make  $\frac{1}{4}$ ths of a mile of the post road, are kept in very good order. Considering how largely the inhabitants of this parish contribute to the roads, by paying at the turnpike gates between this and Edinburgh and Leith, and that the very numerous carriages of the parish have for many years been under the direction of the county, this seems very unaccountable. The roads leading to the coal pits are kept in better order, which is of much advantage to the inhabitants, not merely for their own supply with fuel, but for the sake of a great number of people, who earn their livelihood by the carriage of that article\*. The pavement or causeway of the streets is kept in tolerable good order; but the foot paths in wet weather are shamefully dirty, which is the more inexcusable, as the town draws above L. 70 *per annum* for the dung of the streets, which formerly were a charge to them. It may likewise be observed here, that too little attention is paid to the accommodation of trades people and labourers, who have occasion to travel so frequently to the neighbouring town of Dalkeith. Forty years ago, when the fields were unclosed, the road to that town from Fisherrow was a mile nearer than it is now. The road from Musselburgh has likewise been much lengthened by means of inclosures. The road is narrow, and the people who travel on foot are forced to go, for at least a mile, in mud over the shoes, between two walls or hedges, or to break over the fences; a little attention, and a very small expence, might rectify this.

*Constitution.*

\* Since the above was written, the county have repaired the post road through the parish.



*Constitution.*—The same objections lie against the constitution of this burgh, as against many other burghs of Scotland, viz. that they are liable to an *oligarchy*, and that it is impracticable, as the law now stands, for the burghesses to obtain any redress for the mismanagement of the public revenue; and they are attended with the same ill consequences as in other burghs, viz. the discontent and bad humour of the inhabitants. It must be owned, that it is not probable, that the finances would be better managed in the hands of those who complain, than in the hands of the present set; for, besides that many of the grounds of complaint would be found to be imaginary, if enquired into, the corporation spirit is strong enough to infect the new entrants as well as the old possessors. Ancient constitutions ought to be respected, and *innovations* are dangerous. All this is allowed; and it is farther granted, that a too popular or democratical government, is more tumultuous and hazardous than one in the contrary extreme; and that it is not improbable, that the experience of such evils may have, in ancient times, been the reason for devolving so much power into the hands of the town-councils. Nevertheless, the circumstances of the times, and the change in the state of the burghs, might be attended to; and it may be wise in our legislators, at their leisure, in times of tranquillity, to consider whether or not, without incurring any of the above mentioned dangers, a plan ought not to be devised, for preventing at least the exclusion of the principal citizens or burghesses in rotation, into the councils of their respective towns, and of putting an end to that oligarchy, or government of a few, which is apt to extinguish in the holders of it every idea but that of preserving their own power; and obliges them, for this purpose, to elect into their body insignificant people, or up-



starts and strangers, and to exclude the most wealthy and respectable of their burghesses. It is this narrow system of municipal and political government, which is so irksome to the inhabitants of many burghs in Scotland; which sours their minds, and disposes them to listen with greedy ears to pretended plans of *reform* in the constitution, however remote their connection may be, with the redress of any real grievances they have to complain of.

And yet, after all, such a change ought never to be attempted, till it has been calmly considered, whether or not such an attempt may produce greater evils, than those that are complained of. For when it is considered, that to promote the virtue and happiness of the people is the object of Government, and that their liberty, both political and civil, is sufficiently secured by the fundamental laws of the realm, without exposing them to all the license and debauchery of popular elections, a wise patriot will be patient under partial evils, and cautious in seconding plans of reform, which are not necessary to the security of freedom, and may tend to the corruption of the people.

Upon the whole, next to virtue and good morals, the comfortable state of this community depends on the prosperity of the capital, with which it is so much connected, and on the disinterestedness and activity of its magistrates, in regulating the police, and laying out their funds in useful improvements.



## NUMBER II.

## PARISH OF HERIOT,

(COUNTY OF MID-LOTHIAN, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER HUNTER, Minister.*

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*Name, Form, Extent, and Surface.*

THE name of this parish, from all we can learn, seems to have been always the same. It is uncertain, however, what gave rise to it. Its figure is irregular. Its length from E. to W. is about 10 miles, and its breadth about 6. The surface is composed of some flat grounds on the N. E.; of some valleys on the sides of the rivers *Heriot* and *Gala*, &c.; but mostly of hills, inclining to mountains. The latter are covered with heath, sometimes intersected with fields, which, after being a few years cropped, are sown out, and afford pretty rich pasture for sheep. It is ill-judged frugality, perhaps, in the farmer, not to sow some red, or, at least, some white clover, along with his rye-grass, in these fields; this would both meliorate the land, and enrich the pasture.

*Rivers.*



*Rivers.*—The Heriot rises at the west end of the parish. Ensam-cleugh in Dewar, Garwell punks, and Blackhopo Scares are the supposed sources. It flows east, divides the parish into two, and then loses itself in the water of Gala. The Gala rises in the east end of the parish, at a place called *Nettleflat Wells*, or *Whitelaw Well*, within the property of Mr Borthwick of Crookstown. It runs south, passes Galashiells, and then disembogues itself into the Tweed. These rivers abound with trouts, which gentlemen come from all quarters to fish. It is much to be regretted, that the gentlemen in the neighbourhood permit poachers with nets to visit these prolific rivers. A party of three or four will fall out from Edinburgh, Dalkeith, &c. and in a short space fill their creel or bag, by sweeping every thing before them. They exemplify the old proverb, “All is fish that comes in the net.” Even the salmon, in close time, which come up to spawn, do not escape a dreadful massacre. During the autumnal months, and after a few weeks, the water is covered with lights, composed of old sacks, or rags and tar; and the *lifter*\*, as it is commonly called, is heard plunging in every hole.

*Animals.*—The quadrupeds are horses, black cattle, sheep, hogs, hares, and badgers. The birds are partridges, muirfowl, and plovers, &c. besides the common domestic fowls.

*Soil, Cultivation, and Produce.*—The soil in general, except in the valleys, is thin and gravelly; it admits of a stimulus, such as lime, and then is not a little productive. The farmers often say, “they have plenty of growth, if  
“ they

\* This is an instrument with a long shaft, having three or four iron toes at the end, barbed, with which the fish are killed.



"they had warmth of climate to bring it to maturity." It yields very good oats, bear, peas, and potatoes. Wheat has been attempted, but with very little success. Within these very few years, turnips and artificial grass have been cultivated, and they now obtain, as a part of our system of farming; an improvement not more beneficial to the land, than lucrative to the husbandman; the one prepares the ground for good bear, and the other for excellent oats.

*Farms, Sheep, Wool, &c.*—The farms are of various extent, from 50 to 1000 acres, and let at various rents, according to their quality and situation, from L. 40 to L. 200 Sterling. They are mostly laid out in pasture. To this the farmer has a natural predilection, and cheerfully devotes his attention, care, and diligence. The sheep are of considerable size, hardy, and thrive well. The farmers do not affect the English breed, neither do they wish to buy in new stock. Such as are bred on the ground they consider as more durable, and less liable to disease. They bring good prices, from L. 10 to L. 14 Sterling, the score; their wool from 8 s. to 10 s. the stone. Ewe cheese abounds here. This, for nine weeks, engrosses almost the whole attention of the busy house-wife and her maids. It is, perhaps, inferior to none in quality, cleanliness, and relish; and makes no small additional income to the tenant. The average price, for some years past, has been about 7 s. the stone.

*Population.*—It is generally believed, that the population of this parish has decreased considerably within these 20 or 30 years. Bad farms are said to be the chief cause of this depopulation. True patriotism, and even an enlightened policy, according to our ideas, should stimulate proprietors to check this pernicious practice. The inhabitants of the villages, such as *Hexiot-town, Obapel, &c.* are also diminished,



ished, through the baneful operation of the above system. The tenant having no use either for the houses or the inhabitants, the former are suffered to tumble down into ruins, and the latter must go in quest of employment somewhere else. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, however, which have doubtless reduced the number of the parishioners within these 20 or 30 years, it is a fact, that the population has increased considerably upon the whole, within these 40 years; for the number of souls at present (1794) in the parish amounts to - - 300 whereas the return to Dr Webster in 1755, was only 209

Hence there is evidently an increase of - 91  
The annual average of marriages, births, and deaths is about 4.

*Religious Persuasions.*—Of the above number, nearly the one half are Burgher Seceders. Part go to a meeting-house, (as the common phrase is), at Stow, about 8 miles, and part to Fala about 6 miles distant.

*Church.*—The church is an old and infirm building. It is scarcely safe to perform public duty in it. It is neither dry above; nor decently seated. It is, perhaps, the most shabby and miserable place of accommodation for divine service in Scotland. The heritors, however, have just met and agreed to make some small repairs upon it; among which there is to be a new bell, the old one being rent \*. The manse was in the same ruinous situation, but was rebuilt last year. Owing partly to the measures adopted by the heritors,

\* On the old bell, there is this inscription: "MARIA vocor. Ao. Dni. MCCCECXVII JOHN. DAWIE." The kirk is perhaps older than this bell as above stated, but there is no legend, inscription, or even tradition, to found an opinion upon.



heritors, and partly to the negligence or incapacity of the builders, it is superficial to the last degree. Upon the least blast, it draws water from every quarter, and overflows the rooms. This renders the house extremely damp, and consequently dangerous to health. The stipend is exactly 1000 merks, including sacramental elements. The glebe, about 14 Scotch acres, is partly arable, and partly fit for pasture. There is a process for an augmentation going on. Sir John Dalrymple is patron.

*Proprietors.*—The heritors are 7 in number, *viz.* Lord Roseberry, Sir John Dalrymple, Thomas Adinston of Carcant, John Borthwick of Crookstown, George Cranston of Dewar, Simon Frazer of Ford, and Miss Tait of Fala-hill. None reside in the parish.

*School.*—The school-master's salary is 100 merks. The average number of scholars is 10. The smallness of the number is owing to the age and infirmity of the teacher, who is above 70 years of age; to his ignorance of the languages, and particularly to his want of a school-house. He has only a small cottage, and an area of about 8 feet by 16, taken off the end of it as his school; and even this is crammed with tables, forms, and other household stuff, as the school-master has no place else to lodge them. This want of accommodation greatly affects the emoluments of the teacher, and the education of the youth of the parish. The fees for teaching to read English are 1 s., writing and arithmetic 1 s. 6 d. the quarter. He is also precentor, session-clerk, beadle, grave-digger, and yet his whole income does not exceed L. 8 Sterling *per annum*. This, with the paltry accommodation, holds out little encouragement to a teacher of any merit. Indeed, no man who possesses strength to lift a mattock, or to wield a flail,

would



would accept of such a disgraceful pittance. In these times, when there is such a general rise in all the necessaries of life, what progress in learning or in science is to be expected in any part of the kingdom, when that useful and necessary set of men are depressed by poverty?

*Poor.*—There are no poor in this parish, either in the roll, or as vagrant beggars. Economy, joined to industry, has placed those of the inferior ranks above indigence. They attend diligently to their respective business, and reap the fruits of their own labours. Hence we may infer, that our public fund is increasing; hence also, an assessment for the poor is unknown in this parish.

*Occupations.*—Besides the farmers and their servants, there are in the parish :

Carpenters,	-	2	Weavers,	-	4
Smiths,	-	3	Mason,	-	1
Tailors,	-	2	Miller,	-	1

*Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—The wages of a day-labourer in husbandry are 1 s. and often 1 s. 2 d. per day, without maintenance, and 8 d. and sometimes 10 d. with it per day. A man's yearly wages are from L. 7 to L. 9 Sterling. Those of a female servant from L. 3 to L. 4 Sterling. It is a circumstance not unworthy of notice, perhaps, that she draws only L. 1, 5 s. or L. 1, 10 s. for the winter half-year, and all the rest, L. 2, 15 s. or even L. 3 Sterling, for the summer. The store farmer is the occasion of this. Such as keep two maids for the winter require 4 or 5 for the summer, in order to milk their ewes, cut down their crops, and hoe turnips. Hence the demand for servants is greater, and of course raises their wages. A mason's wages are 1 s. 6 d. with maintenance,

or



or 2 s. without it; a carpenter's 1 s. 6 d. without, or 9 d. with it; a tailor's 8 d. with it, and all others in proportion. The prices of provisions, since the year 1740, are doubled, and some tripled. Eggs, then 1½ d. and 2 d. the dozen, now sell at 5 d. and 6 d. and often are not even to be got; hens, formerly 6 d. now draw 1 s. 2 d. and 1 s. 4 d.; butter, formerly 5 d. is now 9 d. 10 d. and 1 s. the pound; butcher meat, formerly 2½ d. now 4 d. and 5 d. per pound; cheese, formerly 3 s. or 4 s. the stone, is now 7 s. and 8 s.; coals, since the year 1790, have risen from 8 d. to 1 s. 1 d. the tub, which contains 400 lb. Dutch weight. The grain of this parish is carried to Dalkeith market, (which is held weekly on Thursday), and sold for ready money. Oats bring from 12 s. to 18 s. Sterling *per* boll, and bear from 14 s. to L. 1.

*Roads and Inns.*—The roads in the parish are in a pretty good state of repair, particularly the public or Gala-water road. This is one of the London roads. It comes from Edinburgh by Lasswade, Cockpen, Middleton, Heriot, Bankhouse, Selkirk, &c. Good roads are one striking cause of the improvement of the country in this place. Heriot public house was the ancient stage from Edinburgh, and was much frequented. It is near 16 miles from Edinburgh. It belongs to Sir John Dalrymple, but is now deserted by genteel and fashionable company, in consequence of the erection of two new inns at Middleton and Bank-house. There is another public house in the parish, called *Swan-house*, which is the property of Miss Tait. There is one toll-bar near Heriot house, to the north. It is raised to 1½ d. a saddle horse, 3 d. a single, and 4½ d. a double cart.

*Fuel &c.*—Coals, peats, and turfs, are used for fuel; the two latter abound in the parish, and the former is about 6 or 7 miles distant, *viz.* Stobhill, belonging to Mr Dundas



das of Arncliffe, at present Lord Advocate. We have no manufactures here, which is very surprising, as we have abundance of water during the whole year for driving machinery; and the rather, as we are near coal, and have plenty of other fuel, as well as near market towns, such as Edinburgh, Leith, Haddington, Lauder, Dalkeith, &c.

*Antiquities.*—There are in Carcant some vestiges of houses called *Sbiels-Walls*; and on Roughswyre ground, three *Quarter Poles* in different places, but no satisfactory account of them can be obtained. There is on Heriot-town hill-head, a circle of high stones, 70 or 80 feet diameter; and on Borthwick-hall Mid-hill-head, there are 3 large rings, or deep ditches, about 100 paces diameter. Whether they were old encampments of the Romans, or of the Britons, Danes, Picts, and Scots, we shall not venture to determine; all tradition about them here is extinct. There is a circle on the side of the Gala road, near the Bridge, over the water of Heriot, and behind a weaver's cottage, belonging to the Abbey of Melrose; to this place were driven horses, cattle, sheep, &c. when they were pointed or roused for behoof of the creditor. On the march between this and the parish of Inverleithen, in the farm of Dewar, there is a grave, called *the Piper's Grave*. He was piper of Peebles\*. The head and foot stones are visible to this day. On Dewar Hill, not far from the above grave, there is a remarkable large stone, called *Lot's Wife*: the reason of this title is unknown. At a little distance from this, there is the *Wolf-Cleuch*, of which a traditional story † is asserted as truth. A little from the

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\* The tradition is, that he engaged for a certain wager, to blow from Peebles to Lauder, at a certain number of blasts; that he failed in the attempt, died there, and was buried on the spot.

† The tradition is, that this cleuch was inhabited by a wolf, which laid waste the country around. It attacked and destroyed every passenger.



high road, and not far from Heriot public house, there is a stone, called *Mary Gib's*, from an unfortunate woman who was burnt upon this stone for a witch. The children, to this day, in going and coming from school, affect to be afraid when they pass by it.

*Climate and Character.*—The air in every part of the parish is salubrious; hence the inhabitants in general are very robust and healthy. Some live to a great age. One died lately, born in the last century, and the last minister was going 87. The people are industrious, and highly economical, sober, peaceable, humane, and given to hospitality. Their dress is quite simple, and their manners plain and unaffected. They are regular in their attendance on divine ordinances. They are rather badly accommodated for houses, which are shabby dirty huts. Although the parish is within two or three miles of lime at Middleton, they are still built of turf and stone in regular succession. The seats of our lairds are very little better.

*Disadvantages.*—There is no planting or inclosures in this parish, except a cow park or two. This is certainly a great defect in agricultural improvement; besides, it with-holds from the country a principal beauty; add to this, that the lands have no shelter, and even the very sheep are so exposed, as sometimes to be overwhelmed and buried in the snow by scores. A farmer lost about 12 score this winter in one night. Such losses are the more serious, as sheep are the staple commodity of this parish. Two-horse ploughs are all in use here; there is no such thing as an  
ox

ger. A reward was offered, that the man who should kill this beast should have these lands. Accordingly, one had the courage to engage it, and succeeded. He called the lands by his own name, *Dewar*.



ox to be seen in the yoke. We would be cautious to pronounce this any real acquisition to the farmer. A dead ox is better than a dead horse, and a fat ox will sell any where, when a fine horse will scarce find a merchant. Besides, they are cheaply maintained, and in general steady plowers. The rise of farms for some years past has been considerable. This is partly owing to the odious practice of one farmer subsetting to another. There are lands in the barony of Sir John Dalrymple *sub-sub-subset*; the consequence is, the original tacksmen is a kind of second *laird*, and the last is oppressed with anxiety and toil to make up his rent. Farmers who enjoy the right of subsetting are the most exorbitant in their claims. Ye noblemen and gentlemen, proprietors of land, speedily abolish sub-fets and led farms; the poor will bless you, and posterity unborn will rise up and proclaim your patriotic virtues!

NUM.



## NUMBER III.

## PARISH OF CASTLETOWN,

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH, PRESBYTERY OF LANGHOLM,  
SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES ARKLE, Minister.*

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*Origin of the Names.*

THE origin of the modern, as well as of the ancient name of this parish, is abundantly plain. Upon the summit of a precipice, about 100 feet perpendicular, on the east bank of the river Liddal, and immediately above the church, there was a strong fort or castle, the rampart and fossè of which remain entire: near to these, in the place where the present road was formed, and in several other parts in the immediate neighbourhood, many hearth-stones were dug up, where a town or village had formerly stood. Hence the name of *Castle-town*. But the ancient name of this district, and indeed that by which it is still most frequently denominated, was *Liddisdale*, from the river Liddal, which runs through it in a direction from east to south. In the ancient histories, and geographical accounts of Scotland, it is called the county of Liddisdale, and in old writs it is designed the *Lordship* of that name.

*Erection,*



*Erection, Form, and Extent.*—This parish formerly belonged to the Presbytery of Jedburgh; but when the five churches of Eskdale were erected into the Presbytery of Langholm, it was added to them in the year 1743. This was done on account of its great distance from the former seat of the presbytery. Its form approaches nearly to that of a triangle, whose base runs from east to west, along the head of Teviotdale, and whose opposite vertex points to Solway frith. It contains, according to the map of the county, about 52,160 acres. It is the largest parish in the south of Scotland, being upwards of 18 miles in length, and 14 in breadth.

*General Appearance, Woods, &c.*—The general appearance of the upper part of the parish is mountainous; the lower part is hilly; and all of it, at a distance from the banks of the rivers, is bleak and wild to a high degree. But its appearance along the banks of the rivers is altogether different. These are generally covered with natural woods, or young plantations in a very thriving state. The barren wilds are entirely hid from the view; the windings of the river, and the fine holm land on every side, present the most picturesque scenes, or exhibit rich prospects to the eye. These are justly described by our native poet, Dr Armstrong, in his poem on Health\*. The inhabited part of

\* ————— Such the stream,  
On whose Arcadian banks I first drew air.  
Liddal, till now, except in Doric lays,  
Tun'd to her murmurs by her love-sick swains,  
Unknown in song; though not a purer stream  
Through meads more flow'ry,—more romantic groves,  
Rolls toward the western main. Hail sacred flood!  
May still thy hospitable swains be blest  
In rural innocence; thy mountains still  
Teem with the fleecy race; thy tuneful woods  
For ever flourish, and thy vales look gay,  
With painted meadows, and the golden grain!

Book III.



of the parish consists of two vallies. That along the Hermitage is about ten miles in length, from the source of the river to the point where it loses its name in the Liddal. At the head of this river the country is entirely mountainous. The mountains are very high and steep, but are generally dry, and afford excellent sheep pasture. The greatest part of this stream is fringed with natural wood; it possesses much rural beauty, and exhibits the pastoral scenes of life in great perfection. The other valley, or strath, is that along the sides of the Liddal. Near the head of the parish on the east, the rivers Liddal and Tyne, which runs by Newcastle, take their rise, in the midst of an immense bog, surrounded by mountains. This place is very properly named *Dead water*, because for a considerable space neither of them can be traced as a running stream. The Tyne winds slowly to the east, between the bleak mountains and the dreary wastes of Northumberland, by *Keelder Castle* \*. The Liddal runs due west for a few miles, and then runs due south. This part of the country is mountainous, high, cold and moist, and lies under the thick and solitary gloom of continual fogs. For ten miles down the river its banks are entirely naked; the hills on each side produce a great quantity of grafs. At the point where it is joined by the Hermitage the banks are covered with trees. On the north side the thriving plantations of the Duke of Buccleugh, and on the south the plantations and woods of Mr Elliot of Whitehaugh, near the confluence of the rivers, form a landscape highly beautiful. Here the valley widens considerably, and improvements are every where seen. From this hill you reach the confines of Canonby; the ride is very much admired by travellers. The new town rising in view, and building upon an elegant

\* Keelder Castle is a hunting seat of the Duke of Northumberland.



gant plan ; the semicircular groves of trees, and the fertile fields, and windings of the river Liddal, contribute their various beauties to delight the eye.

*Mountains.*—The principal mountains are Tudhope, Millenwood-fell, Windhead, Greatmoor, Dun, Dod, Hermitage, Peel-fell, Roan-fell, Larifton-fell, Carby-Laws, and Tinnis hills. The last mentioned is seen as a land mark at a great distance out at sea. None of these mountains have been measured by the barometer. But when Mr Stobie surveyed the county, he measured those of the Cheviot, Cartawisp, &c. and when on the top of the highest in this parish, he compared them with others by the Theodolite ; by this it appears Tudhope is 1830 feet above the level of the sea. Millenwood-fell and Windhead are about 2000 feet. These are the highest of them.

*Rivers and Fish.*—The rivers are the Liddal, the Hermitage, the Tweeden, the Kershope, (which divides the two kingdoms), the Tinnis and the Blackburn ; with several other streams of inferior note. All of them are plentifully stored with trouts, and afford excellent sport to the angler.

*Climate and Longevity.*—The climate is very damp, owing to two causes. From its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, a great collection of vapour arises, which is attracted by the mountains, and poured down in torrents of rain. The other is owing to the nature of the soil and surface of the hills themselves. They are generally covered to the very summit with a deep stratum of moss, which retains the moisture ; under the moss lies a bed of till, through which the water cannot easily penetrate. Notwithstanding the dampness of the air, those who are bred in the country enjoy good health, and many of them have arrived at a  
great



great age. An instance occurs of one Mr ELLIOT of Redheugh, who lately, at the age of 86, rode 50 miles in one day, without any inconvenience, transacted business at a public market, and returned to his house next evening, without sleep. One man now alive, JAMES LILLICO, married his third wife at 72, is now upwards of 93, enjoys good health, and manages his ordinary business; another, at the age of 80, is in full vigour, and frequently walks to Edinburgh. A woman, named Margaret Wylie, died a few years ago at the age of 113, in the possession of all her faculties till the day of her death.

*Diseases.*—The scrophula prevails frequently among the young, and rheumatic and stomach complaints among those more advanced in life. Inoculation is general. Last spring a great number of children, some men, and women the mothers of children, were inoculated, and all of them did well. At present the small-pox rages in the natural way, and has carried off many. Prejudices still remain against inoculation, chiefly among the Seceders. Consumptions are frequent. Epidemic fevers sometimes visit us, but are seldom fatal.

*Sheep, Wool, &c.*—The rents of the parish arise chiefly from sheep, black cattle and horses, and from tillage. The sheep are of the long kind; there are no short sheep in the country. The breed of sheep has been very much improved of late years, by several individuals, who have purchased rams from the eastern borders. The most intelligent observe, that crossing the breed is not only the best method of improving the sheep and wool, but also of preventing the diseases to which they are liable. By continuing the same ram, the sheep are weakened, and diseases multiplied, or rendered more inveterate; by changing him,  
it



it is found that the *sturdy*, and other diseases, are less frequent. The disorders most prevalent are, the sturdy, the sickness, the louping ill, the rot, and the braxy. Wedders and draught ewes are sold to dealers from Yorkshire. The wool is sold for clothing to the manufacturing towns in England. Last year it sold at from 15 s. to 19 s. the stone; this season from 11 s. to 15 s. The decrease is owing no doubt to the stagnation of commerce. Most of the farms are separated from each other by stone dikes; but even where they are not, the flocks are permitted to wander at large in their respective pastures. They are never confined in hirsels, nor in folds by night; they seek their food at large, and they know best where it is to be found. They are all over-laid with tar; some use palm oil in place of butter, and approve of it. The sheep are carefully washed before shearing. The practice of milking the ewes is very much discontinued; where it is continued, it is only for a short time. It weakens the sheep, and renders them less able to endure the severity of the winter. Every farmer provides a considerable quantity of hay against the storm, and when necessary, feeds regularly. Before this method was adopted, much loss was frequently sustained in stormy seasons.

*Black Cattle.*—Some farmers bring a considerable number of black cattle from the markets of Falkirk, Crieff, and Down. They are supported during the winter by the foggage and coarse hay, and sold in the spring; or fed in good pasture through the summer, and sold fat about Martinmas; kyloes at from L. 3 to L. 5 Sterling. Those bred in the country are of the Dutch, Lancaster, or Galloway kinds. The large kind sell at from L. 6 to L. 9 Sterling. Their pasture is generally coarse, excepting what lies upon lime-stone, which is very fine, but the produce is always very great. The butter which is made, even on the coarsest pasture, is



not excelled by any in Britain. It is commonly observed, that the coarser the pasture is, the butter is the better and the richer. Even the mossy ground, though in appearance barren, is of great use both for black cattle and sheep. The plant, called *the mofs*, rises before any other in the spring, affords excellent nourishment, and is carefully sought after by the flocks. In these coarse lands, there is a constant and regular succession of different species of grass, which rise in their respective seasons throughout the year.

*Soil, Produce, and Cultivation.*—The arable land at present in tillage lies chiefly on the banks of the rivers. Many hundred acres, formerly in tillage, are thrown into pasture on account of the high prices of sheep and wool. The soil of the holm land is excellent. It is sometimes of a light, but most frequently of a very deep and fine loam, and where it is properly cultivated, it produces exceeding good crops. Wheat has been sown, and turned out very well. The ordinary crops are barley, or rough bear, pease, oats, flax, potatoes. Turnips have lately been introduced, and succeeded very well. Last summer, travellers from Edinburgh saw no turnips by the way equal to those on the fields in this place. Within these few years, a considerable quantity of grass seeds have been sown, and have produced excellent crops. From the nature of the holm land, and situation of the country, turnips, barley, and grass seeds, succeeded by early oats, will probably be found the best rotation.—The ploughs in use are, the English plough, and Small's chain plough. The former, drawn by 4 horses, is still used by some farmers, though, from the nature of the land, there can be no doubt that Small's chain plough, with two horses, would execute the work, and answer the purpose much better. The ridges are made very narrow, and  
 consist



consist of 8 furrows \*. One farmer uses a pair of oxen with Small's plough, and approves of them.

*Seasons.*—Though the hills are moist, yet from the reflection of the sun from each side of the valley, and its favourable exposure in the summer, the weather is very warm, and the harvests are early. As soon as vegetation commences in the spring, it shoots forth with wonderful vigour and with great rapidity, and the ordinary productions of the garden arrive at great perfection. Our harvests are much more early than in Canonby, or even part of Cumberland, though both of which countries lie to the south of Castletown. Oats and pease are sown in March and April; barley in the end of April or beginning of May, and they are all reaped in September.

*Population.*—The population of this parish has decreased a little within these 40 years, as appears from the following table. This decrease is easily accounted for, by several farms, formerly let to different tenants, being now possessed

\* The whole of the holm land along the banks of the river appears formerly to have been covered with wood, and the sides of the hills to have been almost entirely in cultivation; the furrows and ridges are plain and evident. But at this period, to sow corn on those places, or to expect a crop, would be equally vain. What is the cause of this change? When the vallies were covered with wood to a certain height, were the sides of the hills more warm? Were the seasons themselves then more kindly, as tradition positively affirms? Or were the inhabitants obliged to cultivate the high grounds, when the lower were covered with wood? About the middle of the hills, on each side the river Liddal, a deep ditch, or a strong wall, appears to have been drawn almost the whole length of the country, beneath which lay the arable ground, where the old furrows and ridges appear, and all above was either for pasture or common. In those days every kind of fence was necessary, not only from beasts of the field, but also from the inroads of the plunderer.



fed by one, and not a few by persons, who do not reside in, or belong to the parish at all.

# STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE PARISH OF CASTLETOWN.

Number of souls, in 1755, as returned to Dr  
Webster, - - - 1507

Ditto in December 1793. { Males, 666 | In all, 1418  
                                      { Females, 752 |

Majority of females, 86 Decrease, 89  
Number of inhabitants in the new village, 70

			Marriages *.	Baptisms *.
In the year 1709,	-	-	4	38
-----1710,	-	-	7	50
From 1749 to 1774,	-	-		464
From 1763 to 1770,	-		43	

## AGES.

\* With regard to marriages and baptisms, the parish register is very imperfect. Several books have been lost, which make blanks of considerable periods. There is a minute inserted in the session records, of date 17th January 1649, which mentions, "That the English army, commanded by Colonels Bright and Pride, and under the conduct of General Cromwell, on their return to England, did lie at the kirk of Castletown several nights, in which time they brake down and burnt the communion tables, and the seats of the kirk; and at their removing, carried away the minister's books to the value of 1000 marks and above, and also the books of session, with which they lighted their tobacco pipes, the baptism, marriage, and examination rolls, from October 1612 to September 1648, all which were lost and destroyed." From the accuracy with which this record had been kept, the loss of it is very much to be regretted. If we may form any judgment from the number of churches and chapels in the parish at that time, with the burying grounds, and also from the ruins of many houses and villages, the number of the inhabitants must have been much greater at that period than at present. No account of the burials can now be given, because there are three burying grounds still used, and a mortcloth, the property of private individuals, and not belonging to the kirk-session.



AGES.

No. of souls under 10 years	Between 50 and 70,	234
of age, - 342	70 and 80,	31
Between 10 and 20, 280	80 and 90,	14
20 and 30, 516	90 and 100,	1

CONDITIONS AND PROFESSIONS.

No. of Heritors, resident,	4	No. of smiths,	5
Ditto occasionally,	3	maçons,	12
Ditto non-resident,	4	joiners,	14
farmers, - 46		weavers,	16
shop-keepers,	9	shoe-makers,	8
surgeons, - 1		cloggers,	3
students at the Uni-		tailors, - 13	
versity, - 2		millers,	3
clergymen, - 2		bakers,	4
school-masters,	3	poor on the	
innkeepers,	3	roll, - 74	

FARMS AND RENTS.

Number of led farms *,	15	Valued rent in Scotch	
Greatest rent of these		money,	L. 15,860
about - L. 300		Real do. Stg. about	L. 6000

STOCK.

No. of sheep, - 36,000	No. of ploughs,	44
black cattle, 1200	carts, about	150

*Commerce, Provisions and Labour.*—The only markets for butcher meat, groceries, &c. are Hawick and Langholm;

\* Farms are styled *led*, when one tenant possesses two or more, and does not reside on them.



holm ; so that the prices of these articles are regulated by those places, with the addition of a considerable expence for carriage. Butter, sold formerly at 4 d. afterwards at 6 d. sells now at 9 d. *per* pound ; a considerable quantity is put up in firkins, and sent to Newcastle for the London market. Dealers buy it on the spot, and this season pay L. 1, 13 s. L. 1, 14 s. and L. 1, 15 s. *per* firkin, of 56 lb. English. The price, however, frequently varies, running from L. 1, 1 s. to L. 1, 10 s. Cow-milk cheese sells for 4 s. 6 d. *per* stone, and ewe-milk for 7 s. or 7 s. 6d. Hens and ducks sell at 6 d. each, chickens at 3 d. and geese at 1 s. 6 d. and 2 s. These articles have varied little in price these several years. The prices of labour have risen exceedingly within these 40 or 50 years, as appears from the following comparative statement :

<i>Wages in 1740.</i>			<i>Wages in 1793.</i>		
A man servant * with main- tenance, from L. 3 to	L. 3	10 0	from L. 8 to L. 10	0 0	
A woman servant with ditto, in summer, - -	0	16 6†		2 10 0	
Ditto in winter, - -	0	5 0		1 5 0	
A day labourer in winter, without maintenance	0	0 6		0 1 0	
Ditto in summer with ditto,	0	0 6		0 1 0	
A tailor in winter, -	0	0 4		0 0 8	
Ditto in summer, -	0	0 6	with maintenance,	0 0 8	
Price of a pair of shoes,	0	4 6		0 6 9	
Ditto of a pair of clogs,	0	2 6		0 2 6	

*Church.*

\* Only 15 years ago a man's wages were commonly L. 3, or L. 3, 10 s. and the very highest did not exceed L. 6.

† Of this sum 12 s. 6 d. was paid in money, and the other 4 s. in one stone of wool. About the year 1730, a woman's wages were only 5 groats and a woollen jerkin.



*Church, &c.*—The church was built in 1777. The rain penetrates through the walls, and part of the timber is already rotten. The manse and offices are a heap of ruins. They were built on the top of a hideous precipice, about 100 feet of perpendicular height †, where there is not a drop of water for the use of man or beast. The late Mr Rutherford found a small spring about the middle of the rock, which he endeavoured to draw up at a great expence; the well was continually filling up, and is now entirely washed away. It is proposed to build a manse and offices in a more agreeable situation next spring. The present incumbent is accommodated in the mean time with a house a little more than two miles from the church. The living is L. 83 : 6 : 8. The value of the glebe cannot be accurately ascertained, as an exchange of land between the Duke of Buccleugh and the minister is just completed, which will be more convenient for both parties; at present the whole of the land is in the most wretched condition. A few of the inhabitants attend a Seceding meeting house in the lower part of the parish, built about 30 years ago, and at present very much on the decline. All the rest belong to the Established Church.

*Old Chapels.*—There have been no less than 5 chapels or churches in the parish, besides the parish church. The Wheel Church at the head of Liddal, Hermitage, on the river of that name, Dinlabyre, Ettleton, and Chapel-know, on the borders of Canonby. Ettleton and Hermitage are still  
used

† Some years ago a woman going from the manse at night, fell from the top of the precipice into the river; her thigh bone only was broken. She is now in perfect health.



used as burying-grounds, and many grave-stones appear in the others. The Wheel Church has been of excellent workmanship. The population of the country must certainly have been far greater in those times. The Wheel Church has been pretty large; many grave-stones appear in the church-yard; yet, when standing on the spot at this time, there are only 3 farm houses in view, taking in a circle of many miles.

*Schools.*—The schoolmaster's salary is L. 8 : 6 : 8, besides his perquisites arising from his office of session-clerk, precentor, marriages, collections, the poor's rates, and school fees. The school house is in good repair; but the school is in very bad order. The number of scholars at present is very small. There are two other schools in the parish, supported by private contributions.

*Poor.*—There is no place where the poor are better provided for than in this parish. Poor's rates were established in 1774. The heritors pay one half, and the tenants the other; it is levied quarterly; the money is paid most punctually, and immediately applied. Those upon the roll receive from 5 s. to L. 1 : 2 : 6 *per* quarter, according to their necessities. The present assessment is L. 56 *per* quarter. In the years 1782 and 1783 several persons received temporary supply, and when the meal fell lower in price it was withdrawn. The weekly collections at the church, since the poor's rates were established, are exceedingly small. But from these, from fines paid by delinquents, and from marriages out of church, persons not on the poor's roll, and in distressed circumstances, are relieved. No person is allowed to beg. A friendly society was established a few years ago; the members pay 5 s. at entering



entering, and so much *per* quarter ; it promises to be very useful.

**Roads.**—It must appear very strange to any person acquainted with the improvements, which other parts of Scotland have received by means of roads, when it is mentioned, that, in this very extensive country, not a yard of road had ever been attempted to be formed, till within these few years. The statute labour has long been commuted. For about 16 miles along the Liddal, the road lay rather *in* the river than *upon its banks*, the only path being in what is called *the Watergate*, and the unhappy traveller must cross it at least 24 times in that extent. The same thing still takes place, with respect to the Hermitage, as far as it runs. At length, by the exertions of two of the heritors, fortunately for the country, possessed of public spirit, Mr OLIVER of Dinlabyre, and Mr ELLIOT of Whit-haugh, a road was begun, and is now carrying along the side of the Liddal for several miles. Hawick being almost the only market from which we receive meal, groceries, spirits, iron, &c. &c. the want of a road to it is attended with much inconvenience and expence. But the funds, arising from the statute labour, are perhaps inadequate to keep so many miles of road in such repair as the country requires, and much less to make new ones. Unless some other method is adopted, the present road cannot be completed, and there is no reason to hope, that the road along the Hermitage can be formed in the present generation. There is much intercourse with both Hawick and Langholm, by weekly markets, fairs, &c. and the difficulty of travelling to those places is inconceivable. Every article must be carried on horseback ; and through these deep and broken bogs and mosses we must *crawl*, to the great fatigue of ourselves, but the much greater injury of our horses,



without the hope of a more comfortable mode of travelling. As we have hitherto had no roads, it is not to be expected that we should have had bridges. The two rivers, Liddal and Hermitage, divide the parish for about 26 miles; there never was a bridge on either of them. From a considerable sum of vacant stipend, with the assistance of the ordinary fund, one was built over the river Hermitage in 1792; and last autumn another was completed over the Liddal. These, together with that part of the road already made, are of the greatest service to the country, and to many travellers, who begin to pass this way from Carlisle to the northern markets, and to Berwick-shire, the road being much nearer than by Langholm and Moss-Paul.

*Fuel.*—The fuel chiefly used is peat, of which there is an inexhaustible fund in every part of the country. There is also coal in the lower part of the parish, wrought on the estate of Mr Oliver. It is sold at the pit at 3 d. *per* bushel, or 6 d. *per* load. Carriers, who bring goods from Hawick, commonly return loaded with coal.

*New Castletown.*—As there is not a village in the parish, labourers and mechanics have long been very inconveniently situated for houses. For their accommodation, and no doubt to encourage manufactures, the Duke of Buccleugh, has for some time past, intended to build a new town. At length a place was fixed on, and a plan made out. It is set down on the farm of Park, on the banks of the Liddal, in a field of upwards of 100 acres of fine land, and is named *Castletown*. It is to consist of two principal streets, bearing the names of the two rivers, *Liddal* and *Hermitage*, with several cross streets at right angles. Hermitage-street is begun, and advancing rapidly. There is a square, called *Douglas Square*, in the centre, for a market place,



place, consisting of about two acres of ground, round which the buildings consist of two stories. Near each extremity there is a smaller square. The street is 54 feet wide; in the principal square it is 100 feet. It was begun in March last; and at present there are 23 houses either inhabited, or nearly finished. Each house costs from L. 35 to L. 40 Sterling. They hold of the Duke, pay a small sum by way of feu-duty, and have each a good garden. Every feuer has grafs for a cow on the hill, for which they pay L. 1. For each house they have two acres of holm land, for 14 years, for which they pay a certain sum. A situation more favourable for carrying on manufactures is scarcely to be found. Its local advantages are very great. Within 100 yards of peat, and only about 3 miles from coal, it has water at command to drive machinery of any extent. Wool, the staple commodity of the country, grows on the side of every hill. There is an excellent road lately made by Canonby to Carlisle, the Solway frith, &c. Possessed of these advantages, it solicits some person of enterprize and industry to improve them. When we consider what has been done in Galashiels, &c. and in situations far less favourable, it is hoped the time is not far distant, when such advantages as these will attract the attention of the manufacturers either of flax, wool, or cotton; and instead of sending the wool, the raw material, to Leeds, Huddersfield, &c. by a long and expensive land carriage, it will be manufactured here where it grows, enrich the country by encouraging industry, adding to population, and by giving bread and employment to hundreds of all ages.

#### NATURAL HISTORY.

*Reptiles, Fish, and Quadrupeds.*—The reptiles produced in the parish are, toads, lizards, and adders. The last is not numerous.—The fish are, trouts, lampreys, eels, skelly,  
or



or chubb, salmon, grilse, &c. The salmon were very plentiful in former years, but since the bay or mound was built at Netherby, few get up at any time, and none but in the time of a great flood. The wild quadrupeds are foxes, hares, wild cats, pole cats, weazels, the white weazel, often seen in winter, hedge hogs and Norway rats. Tradition affirms, that the earth of Liddisdale has a peculiar quality of banishing the common rat from Teviotdale. It is certain, that only a few years ago, carriers on their return to that country loaded their horses with it, and carried it away for that purpose. But it is affirmed, with more probability, that it is only since the Norway rat was introduced, that the common rat has been extirpated.

*Birds.*—Black-cocks, grouse, partridges, grey plovers, wild ducks, snipes, wood-pigeons, buzzards, stannels, owls, crows, ravens, herons, jackdaws, magpies, thrushes, black-birds, starlings, linnets, and gold-finches, frequent the woods. The bittern was formerly numerous, but is now seldom to be seen. The birds of passage, that visit us in the spring, or beginning of summer, are, the King's-fisher, water crow, white and yellow seed birds, the black and sand martins, the swallow, cuckoo, rail, curlew, green plover, sand lark, stone chatteringers, with different species of gulls and sheldrakes. Teal and widgeons are seen in spring when the waters are swelled with rain. The birds that visit us in autumn are, the fieldfare and the wood-cock. Eagles, or earns, are frequently seen, but have no place of residence here \*.

#### *Minerals.*

\* A well authenticated instance of the amazing strength of this bird occurred a few years ago upon the farm of Roughlee in this parish. One morning, when the shepherd was going round his flock, he saw an eagle coming over the Hermitage-hill immediately above him, with something bulky in his talons.



**Minerals.**—There is great plenty of lime-stone in the parish, of different qualities. A draw kiln was erected last year on the Hermitage, and burns a considerable quantity. Several pits of marl are found on the farms of Flight, Kerf-hope, and Tweeden, to appearance of excellent quality; but this, as well as other treasures, are locked up from use by the want of roads. Besides, the coal mentioned at Lawtown, some small crop seams appear on the Tweeden, &c. From the strata of metals, it is apprehended, there is coal in several places, but no trials to any great extent have been made. Free-stone quarries of excellent stone are every where found, excepting at the head of the Hermitage, where there is nothing but blue whin-stone.

**Medicinal Springs.**—There are several springs in this parish, strongly impregnated with sulphur. There is one at the head of it, in that part called *the Dead Water*, unfortunately situated in the middle of that vast morass where the Liddel and the Tyne take their rise. In wet seasons it is weakened by the surrounding water. It is much frequented by persons afflicted with cutaneous and scrophulous complaints, who receive great benefit from it. They drink the water, and use it as a warm bath. But the patients  
are

talons. Struck with the novelty of the sight, he kept his eye upon the bird, and saw him sit down at a little distance. He ran to the spot, when the eagle had disengaged from his talons a fine lamb, and was preparing to tear him in pieces, which the man rescued, and carried home. At that instant, a medical gentleman was visiting a patient in the shepherd's family. He examined the lamb, found it a fine male, the skin of the shoulder torn, but the bone had prevented the talons from injuring the vital parts; he sewed up the wound, and it recovered and did well. On enquiry it was found, that the shepherd of Peel, the same morning, saw an eagle seize a lamb of his flock, and fly off with it, in the line of direction to the place where the lamb was found. The distance of the one place from the other is not less than five miles. JOHN ELLIOT, of Red-brough, Esq; furnished the writer with this anecdote.



are exposed to danger and inconvenience from the want of proper accommodation. The wretched hovels in the neighbourhood being continually damp and wet. On the farm of Dinlabyre, another spring of the same kind is found; the collection of water is much greater, but at present almost lost in the bog in which it is placed. A third is on the farm of Shortbutteries, of excellent quality; all these might be highly beneficial, if the ground were properly drained and attended to. A very strong mineral spring is found at Lawstoun; but as its water has not been analyzed, it is uncertain to what class it belongs.

*Petrifying Water.*—There are several springs of this kind. One is found on the Tweeden, exceedingly powerful, and containing a great quantity of water, where large masses of petrified matter appear on every side converted into solid stone. The progress of the petrification is distinct and beautiful. The fog, which grows on the edge of the spring, and is sprinkled with the water, is about eight inches high; the lower part is converted into solid stone; the middle appears as if half frozen, and the top is green and flourishing. The petrified matter, when burnt, is resolved into very fine lime. The spring itself, when led over the fields in little rills, fertilizes them exceedingly.

*Cascades.*—There are several beautiful water-falls on the river Tweeden, the little streams of Dinlabyre, Harden, and Sundhope. But on the river Blackburn, such scenes are seen in all their beauty and variety. Sometimes the river shoots over a perpendicular rock, in one unbroken sheet of water, forming a beautiful cascade; at other times it is darted over tremendous precipices, and rages furiously among the huge masses of the rock below. In this wild and romantic vale, nature appears in various



forms, now beautiful, then awful, sometimes sublime, and frequently terrible. The author of this account measured the principal falls. One is 27 feet perpendicular in height, another  $31\frac{1}{2}$ ; the breadth of the rock over which it falls, 36; a third is  $37\frac{1}{2}$  in height, and 20 feet wide.

*Natural Bridge of Stone.*—One of the greatest curiosities to be seen in this country, or perhaps in Scotland, is a natural bridge of stone over the same river. It stretches across the stream, and joins the hills on each side. It is 55 feet long, 10 feet wide, and the thickness of the arch is 2 feet 4 inches of solid stone. It is not composed of one entire rock, but has the appearance of many stones about a foot and a half square, set neatly together. The bridge slopes a little downwards, and the water rushes under the arch, through an opening of 31 feet.

*Woods.*—The natural woods consist of oak, ash, birch, and alder. Considerable plantations have been made of Scots fir, spruce, larch, oak, ash, beech and plane. They are all in a thriving condition. There is at present growing on the river Blackburn, an old ash tree, the trunk of which measures 18 feet in circumference, one branch of it 9 feet, and another 8. The trunk is hollow within; five persons of ordinary size may easily sit in it at the same time. Last year the river Liddal, in the time of a high flood, threw up the trunk of an oak tree, opposite to Hag-gibhaugh, the seat of Colonel Elliot of Lariston. Not only the bark, but great part of the wood, seems wasted by age; notwithstanding which this venerable trunk, as it now lies, measures 26 feet in length, and 10 feet in circumference, and is perfectly straight. There is scarcely a tree within view of the place where it lies, excepting a few Scotch firs.



*Eminent Men.*—This parish gave birth to the celebrated Dr ARMSTRONG, whose father and brother were ministers of it.

*Antiquities.*—There are several monuments of great antiquity in the parish, but their origin and their history are involved in much obscurity. Even tradition itself says little concerning them. There are also several old gold coins in the possession of Mr Elliot of Red-henge\*. Though this parish comprehended a great part of the middle march between the two kingdoms, yet excepting a few detached facts, there is nothing of consequence preserved or related by historians. As it lies directly along the English Border, it must have been, for a long period, the scene of action, of fierce contentions, barbarous feuds, and marauding expeditions, which took place between the two nations, when, before the union, and before law and civilization took place, inroads were constantly made by both parties upon each other, and the stronger arm carried away every thing both from the house and from the field. These exploits have been recorded in the poetry of the times, which are still sung by the aged, and listened to with eagerness by the young. They contain an account of the heroic achievements of those days, that is to say, of the inroads made and repelled by the marauders on each side of the Border†.

#### *Castles.*

\* They were found on the farm of Priest-henge, in the neighbourhood of this parish. Some years ago a box was found in the side moat, containing about 120 silver coins, about the value of 3d. each, variously inscribed. Some of them were clipped, or cut in the edges, and not coined. Some copper or brass vessels, of antique forms, were found in a moat on Shortbuttress, and sent to the Duke of Buccleugh.

† The following extracts from the ancient records of the Courts of Justice



*Castles.*—Hermitage Castle stands upon the bank of the river of that name. It has been a very strong building, near 100 feet square, defended by a strong rampart and ditch †. The walls are almost entire. The inner part is

a

Justice \* exhibit a specimen of the transactions of those times. Several persons mentioned in it are the heroes in the old songs and ballads :

" At the Treeves, or Justiciary meeting of the Lords Wardens, to hear all complaints, 1581.—West Marches against Liddisdale, Sir Simon Musgrave, Knight, with Thorn of the Todhill and his neighbours, complain upon Robin Elliot of the Park, Sim Elliot, Clemie Crozier, Gawens Jock, and their complices, for 60 kine and oxen, a horse, and the taking of Thom Routledge prisoner."

" June 1582.—Matthew Taylor, and the poor widow of Martin Taylor, complain upon Old Laird of Whithaugh, Young Laird of Whithaugh, Sims Thom, and Jock of Gopshawe for 140 kine and oxen, 100 sheep, 20 gaits, and all their insight, L. 200 Sterling."

" October 1582.—Sir Simon Musgrave, deputy of Bewcastle and tenants against Walter Scot, Laird of Buckleith, and his complices, for 200 kine and oxen, 300 gates and sheep."

" November 1582.—Sir Simon Musgrave complains on the Laird of Mangerton, Lairds Jock, Sims Thom, and their complices, for burning of his barns, wheat, rye, oats, big, and peas, worth L. 1000 Sterling."

" West of England against Liddisdale. L. 3230."

" Liddisdale against the West Marches, L. 8000."

\* *History of Cumberland.*

† It is said to have been built by a Lord Soules, then Warden of the Border; but it does not appear, that there is any accurate account of its age. Smollet mentions that Alexander II. built a castle in Liddisdale, which gave such offence to Henry III. of England, that he made war upon the king of Scotland, 1240. This, in all probability, was the castle of Hermitage. Among the remarkable places in the county of Liddisdale, Hector Boece mentions " the Castle of Hermitage, now demolished." A great part of the ancient castle appears to have been thrown down, and the ancient part of the architecture is easily distinguished from the more modern. Bishop Elphinston mentions, that Sir William Douglas, Earl

of



a heap of ruins. Within a few yards of the castle are the remains of the ancient chapel of Hermitage †, now in ruins, in the middle of the burying ground still in use. The font is in the wall of the church-yard. The castle of Clintwood, on the farm of Flight, appears to have been a very strong building; the foundation, and a little part of the

of Liddisdale, beat the English out of all Teviotdale, and took the castle of Hermitage in the year 1340. In this castle Sir Alexander Ramsay of Dalhousie was starved to death by the same Sir W. Douglas; who, fired with jealousy because Sir Alexander was made Sheriff of Teviotdale, surprised him in the church of Hawick when holding an assembly, carried him to the castle, and threw him into a dungeon with his horse's furniture. This happened in 1342 \*. Some years ago, a mason employed in building a dike in the neighbourhood, had the curiosity to penetrate into a vault in the east end of the castle. Having made an opening, he descended by a ladder; and in a vault, about 8 feet square, he found several human bones, with a saddle, a bridle, and sword; he brought out the bridle and sword. The bit was of an uncommon size; the curb of it is in the possession of Walter Scott, Esq; Advocate. In the dungeon he found a great quantity of the husks of oats. Report says, the granary of the castle was immediately above this vault, and that Sir Alexander subsisted for some time on what fell down into the vault. From these circumstances it is highly probable, that the bones were those of that gentleman, and that this was the vault into which he was thrown, and starved to death. This castle was also visited by the ill-fated Queen Mary, in the year 1561, on occasion of Bothwell's being wounded by John Elliot in Park. She came from, and returned to Jedburgh in the same day, not only a long journey, but over mountains, and through marshes almost impassable. In one of those marshes, a few miles from the castle, her horse stuck in the moss, which is still called *th: Queen's Mire*.

\* *Muckenzie's Lives.*

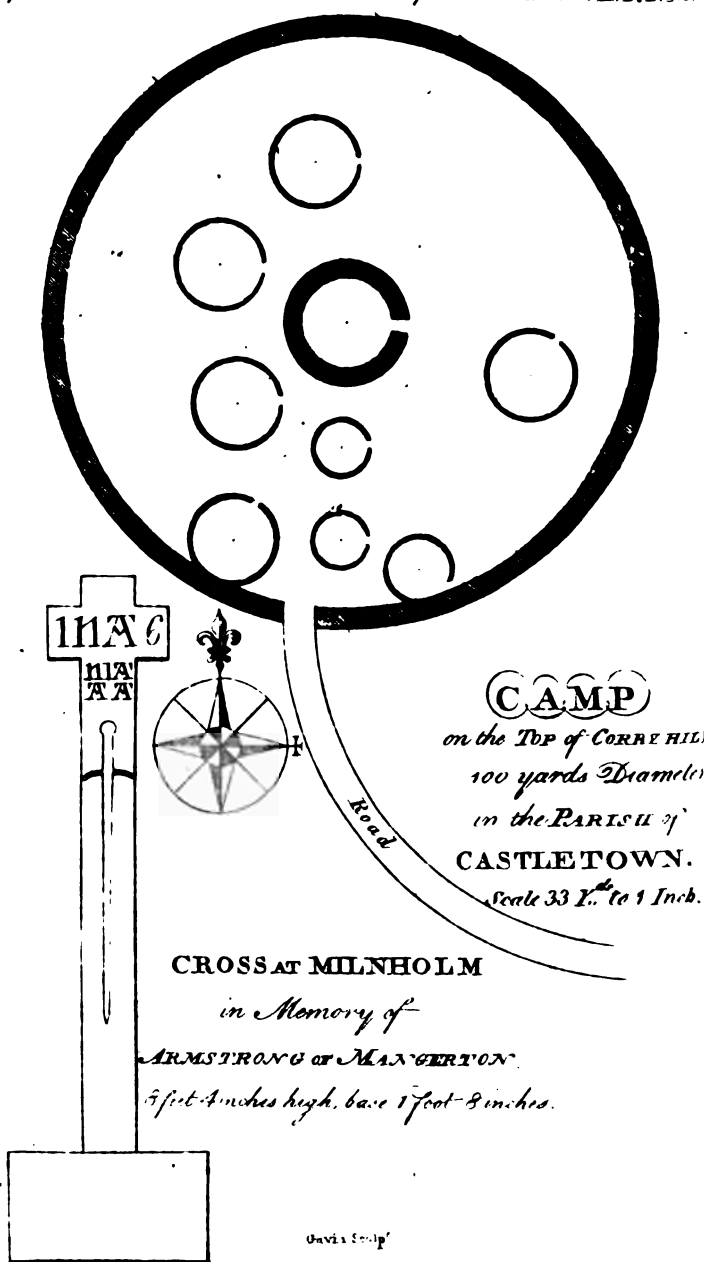
† The chapel, castle, and river derive their name from the cell of a hermit, who had retired thither. He could not have chosen a more solitary spot, nor one more fit for mortification or for contemplation. They give title to the eldest son of the family of Deloraine. Lord Henry Scot, third son of James Duke of Monmouth, by Anne Duchess of Buccleugh, was created Earl of Deloraine, Viscount Hermitage, 1706 \*.

\* *Douglas's Peerage.*











the wall, are still to be seen. This castle, from which the parish derives its name, is situated on the upper part of the glebe, and in former times must have been impregnable on the E. and N. On the E. it is defended by a very deep ravine; on the N. by the Liddal, and a precipice of more than 100 feet in height; and on the W. and S. by two ramparts of great strength, and a fosse of great depth. The only peel house that remains entire is Hudshouse; the vault is immensely strong, and has had double doors, bolted on the inside \*.

*Camps.*—The principal camp is on the top of Carby Hill. This hill is detached from all others, and commands a view of the whole country, and of all that part of Cumberland, by Beese-Castle, &c. The camp is entirely circular, and occupies the whole summit of the hill; it is fortified by a very strong wall of stones, and a road plainly appears to have been made up to it, winding round a part of the hill, and entering it on the south. It is about 100 feet diameter. In the centre a small space is inclosed with a strong wall, and round it are 8 circles of different sizes †, all surrounded by a stone wall, and all of them having had a door or opening to the east. On the summit of the Side-hill, and nearly opposite to Carby, on the north side of the Liddal, there is another strong encampment, nearly of a square form. It is 300 feet in diameter. The wall or rampart is entirely of earth, and is about 18 feet high. This camp has none  
of

\* There were many square towers formerly in this country, the place of residence of the principal families, and all of them places of strength. They were chiefly on the banks of the river Liddal, viz. Peel, Hudshouse, Prickinghaugh, Whitbough, Hillhouse, Riccarton, Mangerton, Puddingburn, &c. Of these nothing remain but the foundations.



of the interior circles of the former. On the farm of Flight, and near to the castle of Clintwood, there are two camps at a little distance from each other; the one round, and fortified with a stone wall \* about 100 feet diameter; and the other square, about 168 feet in length, with two ramparts of earth †.

*Pits Works.*—There are a great many *round-about*s in the parish, commonly called *Pits Works*. They are all circular, and strongly fortified by a wall, composed of large stones. They are frequently found, the one at a little distance from, and opposite to the other. There are two nigh Heeds-house, two on the farm of Shaws, one on Toft-holm, one on Foulshiels, one on Cocklaw, one on Blackburn, and one on Shortbuttrees †. On the farm of Millburn there is a small circle enclosed by 9 stones, which seems to have been a Druidical temple. Tradition says Lord Soules was burnt there. The hill is called *Nine-Stone Ridge*.

*Cairns.*—There are many cairns || in different places. The most remarkable of these is on the farm of Whisgills.  
The

\* This year (1793) the wall was carried away to build a stone dike, and at a considerable depth, among some large stones, there was found the head of some weapon, or instrument of fine brass,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches long; the one end is fitted to receive a shaft or handle, the other is widened, and is formed and sharpened like the edge of a hatchet. The other article found has the appearance of a small sword of mixed metal, about three feet long, but was broken by the workman before the writer hereof could get them into his possession.

† A learned gentleman informs me, that a Roman legion wintered in Liddisdale, cut down wood, and drained marshes.

‡ The stones of this last were lately removed; and on the south side there was found a place 10 feet wide, and 20 feet long, paved with flat stones, and inclosed by others on each side, set on edge, within which there seemed to be ashes and burnt sticks.

|| On the farm of Cleugh-head one was removed, and an urn found full



The quantity of stones is immense, and they are mostly of a very large size. Near these, there is a large stone set on end, about 5 feet high, called *the Standing Stone*. This cairn is in the middle of an extensive and deep moss. It can be approached on horse-back only on one side, and that with much difficulty. There is not a stone to be seen near it.—Upon the march between the parishes of Castletown and Canonby, and upon very high ground near to Tinnis-hill, there is a cairn of great extent, and consisting of free-stones of great size. It is 86 yards long; it is not possible to approach it on horse-back. The stones are chiefly of a square form, of immense weight, and what is very remarkable, there is not a stone to be seen, nor a place where stones could be found, within a great distance of the place. At the north end of it, there are several large stones set on their edges, forming a square, and covered over by one stone. Near to the south end there is one standing perpendicular, evidently so placed by the hand of man, 7 feet above the moss, and 13 feet in circumference. This was anciently called the standing stone, and was considered the north boundary of Canonby, or the debateable land \*. On examining the ground near it, I found five other stones, nearly of an equal size with the former, all inclining to, or lying on the ground, forming a circle, the diameter of which is 4, yards. How these stones were collected, for what purpose, or what the circle has been, which is formed by stones of such immense weight and size, I leave to others to determine.

## 3

*Cross.*

of ashes, which soon fell in pieces. In this cairn were discovered a great number of stones, formerly used for *knocking* bear, or making *barrey*. Some among them was a stone cross, about 4 feet long. Some other cairns have been opened, and ashes found inclosed by 4 stones set in a square form.

\* Vid. History of Cumberland.



*Cross.*—At Milnholm there is a cross of one stone, 8 feet 4 inches high, set in a base 1 foot 8 inches\*. This is a piece of great antiquity. A sword 4 feet long is cut out on the S. side of the cross, and immediately above several letters, as will appear from the representation of it in the plate.

*Disadvantages.*—The disadvantages this country labours under, from the want of roads, are very great. Improvements to any considerable extent can never be carried on while these are wanting, and the means of improvement which the country itself possesses are locked up from use. The cottages, and most of the farm-houses, are in very bad order. Another disadvantage arises from the frosts in spring, and the early part of harvest, to which the country is sometimes exposed, and which prove chiefly hurtful to the potatoes and pease.

*Character.*—The people in general enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts of society, and are contented with their situation. They are by no means fond of a military life.

\* The tradition concerning it is this:—One of the governors of Hermitage Castle, some say Lord Soules, others Lord Douglas, having entertained a passion for a young woman in the lower part of the parish, went to her house, and was met by her father, who, wishing to conceal his daughter, was instantly killed by the Governor. He was soon pursued by the people, and, in extreme danger, took refuge with Armstrong of Mangerton, who had influence enough to prevail on the people to desist from the pursuit, and by this means saved his life. Seemingly with a view to make a return for this favour, but secretly jealous of the power and influence of Armstrong, he invited him to Hermitage Castle, where he was basely murdered. He himself, in his turn, was killed by *Jack of the Sile*, of famous memory, and brother to Armstrong. The cross was erected in memory of this transaction, near to Ettleton church-yard, where he was buried, and almost opposite to Mangerton.



life. The majority are of the middle size, but many of them considerably above, and several under it. Notwithstanding the want of roads, and their great distance from church, (many of them being 8, and even 10 miles distant), they are remarkable for their general and constant attendance on religious ordinances, and exemplary in their conduct during the time of divine service. They make an excellent appearance on such, and on all other public occasions; they are clean and well dressed, in coloured vests, and cloth of English manufacture. They are distinguished by their hospitality and humanity, ever willing to contribute to the relief of those in distress\*. Few law-suits have occurred; no punishments have been inflicted; and few or no traces of the border or barbarous customs are now to be seen. It is impossible to conclude this article without remarking the striking contrast between the former and the present situation of the country. The inhabitants feel the happy change, and are sensible of the superior blessings they enjoy. It was formerly the scene of fierce contention, of barbarous feuds, of plunder, and of desolation, when there was neither security of property nor of life. At present we can only trace the foundations of the ancient castles, the strong holds of their fierce possessors. Their useless walls are thrown down, and converted into sheep folds, and their swords have become rusted in their scabbards, or have been almost literally beaten into plough-shares. "Every one sits in peace under his own vine, and his own fig tree, and there is none to make him afraid."

## NUM.

\* An instance of this very lately occurred:—On a day set apart by the Synod, for thanksgiving for the favourable harvest, it was suggested from the pulpit, to collect a sum for assisting in procuring warm clothing to our brave countrymen in Flanders. Next Sabbath they were forward, from the highest to the lowest, to contribute to this humane purpose, and enabled their minister to transmit a considerable donation to the Lord Provost of Edinburgh.



## NUMBER IV.

## PARISH OF FORGAN,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF ST  
ANDREW'S.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES BURN, Minister.*

*Origin of the Name.*

**F**ORGAN, *alias* ST PHILLANS, is the name of the parish. On the communion cups, made in the year 1652, it is spelled *Forgon*. The derivation of the name is uncertain. From some old charters it would seem to signify *Fore Ground*. Indeed, a good part of it has a gentle descent towards the south. The name, however, is not uncommon. In Angus-shire, there is a parish named *Long-Forgan*; in the county of Perth, there is another called *Forgan-Denny*. The other name, *St Phillans*, seems to have been derived from a Popish saint of that name, of some renown in the days of antiquity. About an English mile west from the manse is the seat of ROBERT STEWART, Esq; which bears the name of *St Fort*. This was probably in ancient times the dwelling of the saint. It stands upon



a rising ground, and might perhaps be then considered as a place of strength. There is also towards the east of St Fort, the *Upper* and *Nether Friartown*, which, no doubt, were formerly inhabited by Popish friars.

*Extent, Soil and Climate.*—This parish is about 4 English miles in length, but not above 2 in breadth. A part of it is a strath from E. to W. the ground rising gently on each side. Much of it is of a southern exposure. Another part of it lies bending towards the N. on the side of the river Tay. The soil is for the most part light, but is rendered fertile by the use of lime. Some of it is black; other parts of a mixed nature. There is little clay soil in the parish. The climate is healthy; few epidemic distempers prevail much here, except the fever, which now and then proves fatal to many. Some are now alive betwixt 80 and 90 years of age. One is said to be above 90. He lives on the ground of St Fort \*.

*River, Ferries, Coast, Harbours, Fish, &c.*—The river Tay runs along the northern side of the parish. On the opposite side of the river, which is about 2 miles in breadth, stands the populous and flourishing town of Dundee. There are two ferries on this side of the river, Woodhaven

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and

\* Colonel Lindsay, brother to Mr Lindsay, who was then proprietor of that estate, one day having met this old man, asked him, how many *Lairds of St Fort* he had seen? he answered, he had seen *six*, and hoped he might live to see the *seventh*. What, said the Colonel, do you wish to see a change of the Laird? I suppose, said the old man, you will have no objection against the coming home of the young Laird. The proprietor was at that time lately married. The Colonel was so much pleased with the good humour of the old man, that he gave him half a crown, which made him very happy, as it is more than probable he had seldom before been possessed of so large a sum at one time. This man has lived to see another, who is the *seventh* proprietor of the estate of St Fort.



and Newport, both of which are in this parish. There is a number of boats employed, some of a larger, others of a lesser size, some of which, when the weather permits, cross at all tides. The tide is about half an hour later here than at Leith. These ferries were much more frequented before the bridge was built over the Tay at Perth, than they have been since. Some of the ferrymen are sober and discreet; others of them borrow the language and behaviour of those who frequent the passage, especially of such whom they look on as their superiors in rank and station. How much is it to be regretted, that from so many of these they often learn to be rude and profane. The coast extends along the north side of the parish. It is for the most part rocky. The harbours at Woodhaven and Newport are very inconsiderable, fit only for their boats, and a few sloops, which are sometimes employed in importing coals, and exporting corn. On the banks of the river there are several salmon fishings\*, some of which have of late increased, in value. They are for the most part carried on by means of what is called a *Tair*. But by some, the long net with a boat is made use of. The salmon are sometimes disposed of at the rate of 4 d. and even 6 d. *per* lb. to the people of Perth, who export them to London, and sell them at high prices. By others they are sent to the neighbouring towns of Dundee and Cupar in Fife, distant about 6 computed miles.

#### *Cultivation.*

\* A process before the Court of Session was lately commenced respecting one of these, and most keenly agitated on both sides. Several hundred pounds were expended by each of the contending parties, one of whom, the Rev. Dr Dalgleish of Scotscraig, not only prevailed, but obtained his expences.



*Cultivation.*—The improvement of the ground has, of late years, made considerable progress, chiefly from the use of lime, which, on our light and dry soil, has the most happy effects. The lime is driven in carts from the distance of 8 or 10 computed miles; some of the tenants bring it from Northumberland by sea. Their crops are by it enriched when the season is not too dry. Some lands that are marshy have of late been greatly meliorated by draining. ROBERT STEWART, Esq; of St Fort, who is very active and industrious, besides other improvements which he has made, has drained a piece of ground, which, during the winter, was almost covered with water. It was fit for nothing but feeding a few young cattle in summer; and, though consisting of 52 acres, was sometimes let for about L. 5 or L. 6. It is more than probable, that in a few years it will let for upwards of L. 50 Sterling. What a blessing is it to the country, when proprietors of land, instead of debauching their neighbours by examples of intemperance, set them patterns of activity and honest industry! How is the blessing enhanced, when, by their example, the people under them are led to fear God, and to reverence his sanctuary! The neglect of this seldom fails to ruin the morals of the people, and to destroy their industry.

*Produce.*—The farmers raise a pretty large quantity of wheat, although it is reckoned to scourge the ground; but they are tempted to prefer this crop by the high prices, which are generally from L. 1 to L. 1, 5 s. *per* boll. It is measured with the small firloot, which is a great deal less than that used for oats and barley. They commonly have good crops of barley, and generally get a good price, from 15 s. to 18 s. Sterling *per* boll. They have also tolerable crops of oats and pease. The oats sell at from 12 s. to 14 s. *per*



*per boll.* Pease are by no means a lucrative crop, but they serve to meliorate the ground when the crop is rank, and the straw is excellent fodder for horses. It is chiefly on these accounts that the farmers continue to sow them, for the price of pease is generally low, and their returns very inconsiderable. The soil is very much adapted to the culture of turnips; of these they raise good crops, with which, during the winter, they feed their cows and cattle, some of which they fatten for slaughter, and for which they sometimes draw good prices. They have also good crops of potatoes, from the light and dry soil. These yield a salutary support to the poor people, when they do not use them to excess. To this, however, they are strongly tempted, when the meal is high priced. On such occasions they feed upon them *thrice a day*, by which their health is sometimes hurt. With the refuse, and the smaller potatoes, they commonly feed swine, which they salt up for winter provision. This practice is become so common of late, that the price of a young pig of a few weeks old is generally 7s.

*Rents.*—Their rents are from L. 100 to L. 400 *per annum*, and upwards. The tenants are all in easy circumstances, and some of them are opulent. All of them are sober, active, and industrious. Those of them that have lately got new tacks pay double, and some almost triple their old rents. Several of the tenants have sublet some acres of their ground, lying at a distance from the farm houses. They who enjoy these small possessions are called *Pendiclers*. Some of them have 10 or 12 acres, some more, some less.

The valued rent of the parish in Scotch money

is,	-	-	-	-	-	L. 5145	5	7
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The real rent, in Sterling, is supposed to be

about,	-	-	-	-	-	L. 2873	0	0
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*Black*



*Black Cattle.*—Of these a considerable number is annually reared. Till of late years, they were employed in drawing the plough, but they are now seldom or never used. Instead of two horses and two oxen in the plough, which required a man servant and a boy to drive them, two horses only are used, and one man manages both them and the plough at the same time. This is a considerable saving to the farmer, now when the wages are so high; and as the horse plough moves quicker, more ground is ploughed in the same time. It is the new plough that is used in this part of the country.

*Sheep.*—Several flocks of these were formerly in the parish; now there is but one. The tenants found the sheep very hurtful to their sown grass, which, in the winter, they tore up by the roots. Their *Sheep Walks* are now, by means of lime, turned into good corn-fields, which they find to be more profitable. They may, however, at length be compelled to return to their former practice of feeding flocks of sheep, to meliorate those fields which are at too great a distance for driving dung to them; when the strength of the lime is spent, and they become unfit for producing crops of corn, the tedding of the sheep may be found necessary to recruit these fields.

*Minerals.*—There is abundance of rock, some of a more hard, some of a softer nature. The first is very proper for common buildings, the latter for the making of roads; to improve which there is such an uncommon spirit now happily prevailing in this part of the nation. There is also much channel, well adapted to the same purpose. But there is no free stone; this is brought from the other side of the Tay in boats, from a noted quarry in Angus-shire, commonly known by the name of Millfield Quarry.



*Fuel.*—There were formerly some peats dug out of the mosses in the parish ; but the proprietors have prohibited this practice for many years past. There are some muirs that abound with whins ; from these the poor people get a part of their fuel. Coals are both scarce and high priced. The land coal is driven from the distance of 8 or 10 computed miles. A quantity such as two horses can conveniently draw, costs about 7s. 6d. ; an equal quantity, or rather larger, but of a much better quality, brought from Alloa and other places by sea, will cost 12s. weighing about 112 stone weight. This makes the fuel costly to the poor, many of whom, during the cold of winter, aggravated to them by their meagre diet, are not a little injured by the want of it. But amidst all their straits, it is truly pleasant to see them possessing that cheerfulness and contentment which Christianity is so much fitted to inspire.

*Population.*—The population is on the increase. Several feus have been made on the banks of the river Tay, and several new buildings have been of late erected on them. The number of examinable persons in the parish at present (1793) is about - - - 700  
 Allowing the usual proportion of  $\frac{1}{4}$  for children, 175  


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 The total number of souls may be stated at 875  
 The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was only 751  


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 The increase since that period is therefore not less than 124



*A List of MARRIAGES, BAPTISMS, and BURIALS, for 10 years, extracted from the Parish Records of Forgan.*

	Mariages.		Baptisms.		Burials.
1780,	- 5	-	25	-	15
1781,	- 9	-	14	-	8
1782,	- 7	-	19	-	29
1783,	- 7	-	19	-	13
1784,	- 12	-	25	-	21
1785,	- 15	-	24	-	17
1786,	- 5	-	16	-	35
1787,	- 9	-	16	-	17
1788,	- 5	-	23	-	8
1789,	- 10	-	21	-	10
<hr/>					
Total,	84	-	202	-	173

*Prolific Births.*—In the space of 4 or 5 years, twins have been born at four several births. Since I came to the parish, one of the boatmen's wives was at one birth delivered of three fine children. They all lived till they were weaned, and two of them arrived at manhood.

CONDITIONS AND PROFESSIONS.

No. of Heritors, resident,	7	No. of tailors,	-	6
— Ditto non-resident,	4	— shoe-makers,		3
— Minister,	1	— wrights,		3
— school-master,	1	— masons,		4
— tenants,	9	— weavers,		14
— pendiclers, or sub-		— poor on the roll,		6
tenants,	- 16			

*Villages, Occupations of Women, &c.*—There are several villages in the parish. The female inhabitants are generally



rally employed in spinning coarse yarn, of which a kind of cloth is made that gets the name of *Ojnaburgb*. Of this the merchants in Dundee export large quantities; but in this, as in most other manufactures, there is a very great stagnation since the commencement of the present war. They got 1 s. 6 d. for spinning a spindle of this yarn; but since the war it has been so low as 1 s. and sometimes 10 d. While the encouragement for spinning was high, it was sometimes difficult for the tenants, and others, to get maid servants. But though their gain was considerable, yet the constant sitting at the wheel, and the immoderate waste of *saliva*, was by no means favourable to their health. Many of these people are employed in cutting down the corns in harvest. During this season they are uncommonly chearful and healthy; but as this exercise in the field is an extreme entirely opposite to the sedentary life they generally lead through the rest of the year, disagreeable effects are sometimes felt after the harvest; however, the danger of this is not a little abated by their present manner of living during this season, which is upon oat bread and ale, which, when fresh and good, is a most wholesome diet. How much preferable to that which was used some years ago, *viz.* salt meat and salt broth, and sometimes, it is said, milk and salt herring? This, with their excessive labour, could not fail to excite a most painful thirst; to quench which, as soon as they came to the *Land's End*, as they call it, they went in quest of cold water; of which, when within their reach, having taken a plentiful share, they sat down to rest, without reflecting on the danger they were in, which it is said, has in some instances proved fatal.

*Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—A mason commonly gets 1 s. a day; a carpenter, or common wright, the same, sometimes rather more; a tailor, 8 d.; a weaver gets so much



much a yard, sometimes more, sometimes less. A common labourer, when he works by the piece, will sometimes earn 1s. 6d. or 1s. 8d. a-day; maid servants get about L. 3 Sterling a-year; men servants get from L. 6 to L. 10 Sterling; the men shearing in harvest get 1s. *per* day; the women 10d.: but the generality of them are hired for a certain sum during the harvest; the men from L. 1, 1s. to L. 1, 5s. and a lippie of lintseed; the women 16s. or 17s. and a lippie of ditto, sometimes half a peck.—The best beef is for the most part 4d. *per* lb. (16 ounces); the mutton sells usually at the same rate; the veal, early in the season, sells at 6d. *per* lb. when plenty at 4d. sometimes at 3d.; a hen 1s.; a goose at 3s.; eggs 4d. *per* dozen; rabbits, when skinned, sell at 5d. *per* pair; their skins sell from 7s. to 9s. or 10s. *per* dozen; cheese at 5s. *per* stone; pigeons at 5d. the pair. Within these 20 years, or even less, provisions are almost doubled in their price.

*Church.*—The King is the patron. The present incumbent, Mr JAMES BURN \*, is said to have been the first presentee in Scotland of his present Majesty King GEORGE the III. having been admitted to this parish in May 1761. He has a stipend, *communibus annis*, about L. 80 Sterling, besides a manse and glebe of about 6 acres. An augmentation of stipend is in process. The church and manse were repaired in 1771.

### Religious

\* His predecessors were Messrs Wedderburn, Nairn, Russell, Gellatly, and Beat: and it is remarkable, that they were all ministers of this parish for much the same space of time, about 13 or 14 years, and that all of them, save one, were translated to other parishes. The present incumbent had it in his choice oftener than once to have followed their example, but preferred his present situation.



*Religious Sects.*—There are not many Dissenters in the parish; only two Episcopalians, and a few Antiburgher Seceders, most of whom had left the Established Church before the present incumbent was settled here. Some of them left the Secession, and came to the parish church; but when the new mode of singing without reading the line was introduced, they again withdrew, and carried two or three individuals along with them. They are sober and industrious, not at all so bigotted as are many of that sect; they are very useful members of society.

*Poor.*—There are no begging poor belonging to the parish, but many such from Perth and other places. By these, and travelling tinkers, this part of the country is not a little oppressed. It is much to be regretted that each parish does not take care of its own poor, and hinder them from travelling abroad to other parishes. Besides the number of pensioners on the poor's roll, which sometimes does not exceed 4, there are not a few who obtain a temporary supply of 10 s. 15 s. or L. 1, at a time when sickness is in the family, or the head of it unable to work. Parents who are not able to pay for the education of their children, have them educated upon the poor's funds, which are made up from the weekly collections on Sabbath, to which the seafaring people, of all others, contribute most liberally. The annual amount of the collections is above L. 14 Sterling. A farmer in the parish, at his death, some few years ago, left a legacy of L. 20 Sterling. This made a considerable addition to the fund, which has been more than doubled within these 30 years. It is managed by the kirk-session with care and attention, without the least expence to the fund.

*Character.*



*Character.*—They are generally sober and industrious. A few years ago a spirit of smuggling too much prevailed in this corner, than which nothing is more ruinous to the health and morals of those who are addicted to it \*. There is reason to believe that little or no gain was made by that most mischievous traffic, of the effects of which the minister, from time to time, did not fail to remind them from the pulpit. This ruinous traffic is now nearly annihilated among us ; and happy were it for the nation that the temptations to it were less, frequent and powerful than they sometimes are. None of the people of this parish have been the subject of a criminal process, nor have any of them emigrated.

\* One young man, a tenant in the parish, was most unhappily addicted to it; in a few years he hurt many others, and ruined himself. The last time he called at the manse, he expressed his wish that he had followed the advice the minister had often given him,—Had he done this, he had probably succeeded as a tenant, and escaped those miseries which, by smuggling, he unhappily brought upon himself. He lay in a prison for several months, reduced to great indigence. This is mentioned as a warning to others, who by smuggling hope to be made rich, but are far more likely to become ruined, and to entail misery and mischief on themselves and others.



## NUMBER V.

## PARISH OF KILLEARN,

(COUNTY OF STIRLING, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND  
AYR, PRESBYTERY OF DUMBARTON.)

*By the Rev. Mr DAVID UKE, M. A. Minister, Glasgow.*

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*Situation and Extent.*

THE parish of *Killlearn* forms the western extremity of the Strath of Blane. This beautiful valley exhibits a landscape, replete with a great variety of striking objects. It is skirted by two ridges of hills, some of which are of considerable height. The fore ground is enriched by the water of Blane, meandering through fertile pastures and well cultivated fields; whilst the diversified prospect, extending over the parishes of Killlearn, Drymen, Kilmaronock, Buchanan, &c. comprehends Lochlomond, Benlomond, Benliddie, the Grampian Hills, &c. &c. and at length is lost among the far distant mountains of Argyle and Perthshire, mingling their azure-coloured summits with the clouds. Vast masses of basaltic pillars, exhibiting extensive colonnades, arranged in almost every possible direction,



rection, come into view on the one hand, and a limpid stream, forming a delightful cascade, on the other. Here a verdant wood, in variegated windings, skirts the sides of the hills; and there a deep glen, hollowed out by the work of many ages, lays open to view not a small part of the bowels of the earth. In one point of light may be seen the ruins of an ancient castle \*, once the well fortified habitation of a rich and powerful family; and in another, a numerous flock, scattered like snowy specks on the verdant declivities of the mountains. Few places in Scotland afford a greater diversity of the grand and picturesque scenes of nature, grouped together in such pleasing varieties. This parish is bounded by the parishes of Strathblane and Campsie, on the S. E.; by New and Old Kilpatricks, on the S. and S. W.; Drymen and Dumbarton, on the W.; Balfreone, on the N.; and Fintrie, on the E. It is by computation about 12 miles in length, from N. E. to S. W. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , at an average, in breadth.

*Population.*—It is inhabited by 206 families, 56 of whom live in the village of Killearn, which contains 223 persons. The 150 families residing in the country, reckoning five individuals to each, will include 750 inhabitants, making in whole 973 souls. The population in the year 1755 was 959. Soon after this time it greatly decreased, owing chiefly to the demolition of cottages, to each of which was commonly annexed a paffle of two or three acres of land. Lately, however, from the rapid advance of trade, the population has been greatly on the increase. By the following table of births, as they stand inrolled in the parochial records, it will appear that the present population is not so great as at a century ago.

TABLE

\* Duntreath, the property of Sir Archibald Edmonstone of Duntreath, Baronet.



## TABLE OF BIRTHS.

Dates.	Births.	Dates.	Births.
1695, -	37	1740, -	30
1696, -	32	1760, -	11
1697, -	22	1780, -	16
1698, -	47	1790, -	10
1700, -	35	1791, -	26
1720, -	30	1792, -	27

*Gentlemen's Seats, &c.*—About a mile and a half south of the village is the *Place of Killearn*, anciently the seat of a cadet of the Montrose family. but lately of *Robert Scott of Killearn, Esq;* and now the property of *the Right Hon. James Montgomery, Lord Chief Baron for Scotland*. The present edifice, which is far from being large, was built in the year 1688. Numerous plantations, regularly disposed in form of clumps, belts, and wilderesses, beautify and shelter an extensive tract of pleasure ground round the house.

*Croy*, situated about a mile from Killearn place, received the greatest part of its present improvements, about 30 years ago, from its then proprietor, *Robert Muirhead, Esq; merchant, Glasgow*. About 50 acres around the mansion-house are laid out in planting, disposed in the most advantageous manner for shelter and ornament. Amongst the natural beauties of *Croy* may be mentioned *Dualt glen*. The sides of this delightful recess are very steep, and, for a long course, exhibit a great variety of trees and shrubs, grouped together in almost every conceivable form, whilst the under herbage displays not a few rare indigenous plants in great perfection. Foot paths, cut out amongst the windings of the banks, command, in various points of light, many beautifully diversified prospects. The head of the glen is terminated by a freestone rock, nearly perpendicular, about



60 feet in height, over which the rivulet of *Dualt*, falling precipitately into a deep Linn, forms a delightful cascade, which adds not a little to the grandeur and solemnity of the scene. About half a mile from Dualt glen, and in the estate of Croy, is *Ashdow*, which exhibits a scenery in many respects peculiarly striking. It consists of a high rock, over which the water of *Carnock* precipitately falls, and, by the work of many ages, has cut out for itself a deep and winding passage. The projecting rocks, on both sides the water, are wild beyond description. Nearly meeting at the top, in some places, they widen below into beautiful curvatures, naturally hollowed out in various directions. The romantic appearance of the rocks is set off to advantage by trees and shrubs hanging, in great profusion, over the clefts. The rivulet dashing over the precipice, and rumbling through the deep-worn channel; the united harmony of a great variety of the feathered tribe; and the dark shade, which perpetually rests upon a great part of this picturesque scenery, conspire to fill the mind of the beholder with the most pleasing ideas of the grand, the delightful, and the solemn. The estate of Croy, now the property of *William Richardson of Croy, Esq; Professor of Humanity in the University of Glasgow*, is receiving daily improvements.

*Ballikinrain*, the property and summer residence of *Robert Dunmore of Ballindalock, Esq;* occupies one of the most pleasant situations in this part of the country. The mansion-house, which is of a modern construction, is by far the most elegant and commodious dwelling-house in the parish. The estate, before it came by marriage into Mr Dunmore's possession, belonged for several centuries to the *Napiers of Ballikinrain*. The last proprietor, John Napier of Ballikinrain, Esq; was the *sixteenth* of the name and family of Napier, who, in succession, possessed the estate. It is now enriched with many agricultural improvements, especially inclosures



inclosures and planting, which are highly ornamental as well as profitable.

On the estate of *Balglass*, likewise the property of Mr Dunmore, and adjoining to Ballikinrain, is a large dwelling-house or castle, of an antiquated construction. It is reported that this place was anciently well fortified, and that *Sir William Wallace of Elerstie*, the brave defender of his country, once found it a safe retreat in time of danger. This place is rendered conspicuous by the *Corries* or *Curries* of *Balglass*. They are semicircular excavations, naturally hollowed out in the western extremity of that ridge of hills, commonly known by the name of Campsie and Strath-blane Fells. Some of the Corries are very spacious, being more than a mile diameter. In several places they beautifully exhibit the various mineral strata, of which the mountains are composed.

At no great distance from Ballikinrain are *Balquban* (vulgarly *Roban*) and *Carbeth*; the former, belonging to *Thomas Buchanan of Balquban, Esq.*; and the latter to *John Buchanan of Carbeth, Esq.* Around the mansion-houses on both estates are plantations and inclosures to a considerable extent.

No spot in the parish, or perhaps in Scotland, has a better claim to the attention of the public, than the indisputable birth-place of **GEORGE BUCHANAN**, the celebrated poet and historian. That great man, whose name is deservedly famous through Europe, was born at a place called the *Moss*, a small farm-house on the bank of the water of Blane, and about two miles from the village of Killearn. The farm was the property of George Buchanan's father, and was for a long time possessed by the name of Buchanan. It is now the property of Mr William Finlay of Moss, and holds of the family of Drummikill, from  
which



which George's ancestors descended. The place is called the *Moss*, because it is situated in the vicinity of a peat-moss, which is part of the farm. The dwelling-house, considered as a building, is very far from being conspicuous; although it is no worse, and probably never was worse than the ordinary farm-houses in this part of the country. Its appearance of meanness arises from its being very low, and covered with straw thatch. Part of it, however, has been rebuilt, since the year 1506, when George was born. Mr Finlay is highly to be commended for preserving, as much as possible, the ancient construction and appearance of this far famed and much honoured house. The most superb edifice would sink into oblivion, when compared with the humble birth-place of George Buchanan. Long may the *Moss of Killearn* afford mankind a striking proof that the GENIUS of learning does not always prefer the lofty abodes of the great and powerful. It must, however, be remarked, that the parents of Buchanan, although not very opulent, yet were not in abject or indigent circumstances. The farm, which consists of a plough of land, was able, by the aid of industry and œconomy, to keep them easy. A place in the neighbourhood is, to this day, called *Heriot's Shields*, so denominated from Buchanan's mother, whose name was Agnes Heriot, and who first used that place for the shielding of sheep. It is reported, that he received the first rudiments of his education at the public school of Killearn, which was for a long time in great repute, and much frequented. He afterwards, by the liberal assistance of his uncle George Heriot, after whom he was named, went to Dumbarton, Paris, &c. &c. to complete his studies. A considerable number of old trees yet remain adjacent to the house; and are reported to have been planted by George when a boy. A *mountain ash*, famous for its age



and fire, was blown down a few years ago; but care is taken to preserve two thriving shoots that have risen from the old stool.

The gentlemen of this parish and neighbourhood, led by a laudable ambition to contribute a testimony of respect to their learned countryman, lately erected, by voluntary subscription, a beautiful *Monument* to his memory. By such public marks of approbation bestowed upon good and great men, the living may reap advantage from the dead. Emulation is thereby excited, and the active powers of the mind stimulated by an ardour to excel in whatever is praiseworthy. Buchanan's monument is situated in the village of Killearn, and commands an extensive prospect. It is a well-proportioned *Obelisk*, 19 feet square at the basis, and reaching to the height of 103 feet above the ground. In the middle is a cavity of 6 feet square at the bottom, gradually diminishing until it reaches the height of 54 feet, where it becomes so narrow as to receive the end of a Norway pole, which is continued to the top of the obelisk. To this pole, the machinery for raising up the materials for building, was fixed. Owing to this peculiar mode of construction, the monument is believed to be much stronger than if it were solid. The foundation was laid, in the month of June 1788, by the Reverend James Graham, minister of the parish. In the foundation-stone was deposited a *crystal bottle* hermetically sealed, containing a silver medal, on which was engraved the following inscription:

after

In



In Memoriam,  
Georgii Buchanani,  
Poetæ et Historici celeberrimi:

Accolis hujus loci, ultra conferentibus,  
hæc Columna posita est, 1788.

Jacobus Craig, architect. Edinburgen.

This beautiful structure is built of a white millstone-grit found a little above the village of Killearn, and in the estate of the Lord Chief Baron. The quarry from which it was taken has been wrought for a long time past, and is very extensive: It was known by the name of the Lettre-hill Quarry, from the name of the ground; afterwards it was called the Mill-stone Quarry, because mill-stones were frequently taken from it; then the House of Montrose Quarry, because it afforded stones for the Duke of Montrose's house at Buchanan; now it is called the Monument Quarry. The stone is not of a very coarse grit, but is extremely hard and durable.

*Gartnefs.*—The *Pot of Gartnefs*, in the water of Enrick, has, for its beauty and singularity, always attracted the attention of strangers. It is a deep linn, shaped like a caldron or pot, whence the origin of the name. It is occasioned by the fall of the water over a rock that lies across the river; the fall is not perpendicular, but is interrupted by three or four breaks. This romantic and well known spot affords no little entertainment to the angler; as the salmon and trout from Lochlomond, being frequently unable to force their way over the rock, which requires two or three great leaps quickly made, are detained in the linn,  
and



and taken sometimes in great numbers.—At this place, but on the Drymen side of the water\*, is *Gartness mill*, which has long maintained a high reputation for grain and lint. The remarkable services done the public by this mill during the great frost in the year 1740, were so seasonable, that they will not for a long time be forgotten. It fortunately happened, that in 1739 the mill received a new wheel of a very good construction. It was made of black saugh (willow) that grew at Touch, a few miles from Stirling. This kind of wood, of all others, was then preferred for making mill-wheels; its excellency was supposed to consist in toughness and durability. Owing to the strength and other properties of the wheel, *Gartness-mill* was, by the aid of a constant fire, kept a-going during the severity of the frost, when all other mills, for a great way round, were entirely stopped. Corn at that time was brought to *Gartness* from great distances, and thereby many families were kept from starving.—Adjoining the mill are the remains of an old house in which JOHN NAPIER of Merchiston, inventor of the logarithms, resided a great part of his time (for some years) when he was making his calculations. It is reported, that the noise of the cascade being constant, never gave him uneasiness, but that the clack of the mill, which was only occasional, greatly disturbed his thoughts. He was, therefore, when in deep study, sometimes under the necessity of desiring the miller to stop the mill, that the train of his ideas might not be interrupted. He used frequently, in the evening, to walk out in his night gown and cap. This, with some things which to the vulgar appeared rather odd, fixed on him the character of a *warlock*. It was firmly believed, and currently reported that he was in compact with the devil; and that

\* The Enrick at this place divides Killearn from Drymen parish.



that the time he spent in study was spent in learning the *black art*, and holding conversation with *Old Nick*. But John Napier was not the only great man who, in days of ignorance, was supposed to be a wizard; nor were the vulgar in this neighbourhood the only people who believed in witchcraft.

*Quadrupeds, Birds, &c.*—This parish is not remarkable for any of the more uncommon productions of nature. The fox, badger and founmart, are no strangers to some of the glens and rocks. Ashdow is particularly noted for the haunts of owls, hawks, kaws, and wild cats. The currie of Balglais has long been remarked for an eagle that hatches her young in that sequestered and rocky spot. Herons have their periodical haunts in several places of the parish, as at Balglais and Corbeth, where in tall fir-trees they annually bring forth their young. The king's-fisher has been observed at Croy, on the banks of the Blane, a river much resembling the muddy and slow-flowing waters chiefly frequented by that beautiful bird. Jays, magpies and bulfinches abound in the plantations at the hill of Killearn, and some of the neighbouring banks.

*Fish.*—Few places in Scotland afford better entertainment for the angler than this parish, there being a great number of rivulets and brooks abounding with trout, of which Lochlomond affords in great plenty a perpetual supply. Salmon, pike, and eels of different kinds, frequent the Enrick and Blane; but no fish in greater numbers, at a certain season of the year, than the braise (*roach*, Eng.) Vast shoals come up from Lochlomond, and by nets are caught in thousands. Their emigrations from the loch, however, are only for the space of three or four days about  
the



the end of May. The parr is, through the whole year, an inhabitant of the Enrick; but it is in greatest perfection about the beginning of harvest. Some of them more than a foot in length, have been caught at Gartnefs.

*Plants, Trees, &c.*—Great varieties of indigenous plants ornament the numerous glens, rocks, and muirs. The Juniper grows in some places to a great size, and is commonly very prolific. The stone bridge over the Blane, at the Moss, is founded upon a layer of juniper bushes. It is believed that this plant, when in a wet situation below ground, resists corruption for a very long time. It was believed, during the plague in Scotland, that people who lived in the immediate neighbourhood of places abounding with juniper, or who burned it plentifully in their houses, were not readily, if at all affected with the plague. The Scottish Gaul, (*Myrica Gale*, Linn.), a valuable vermifuge, abounds in several places of the parish. Were the qualities of this odoriferous shrub more generally known, its cultivation would probably be attended with considerable profit. Amongst the plants which are not generally very common, are the *Festuca ovina vivipara*; *Echium vulgare*, *Imperatoria Ostruthium*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Polygonum Pensylvanicum*, *Adoxa Moschatellina*, *Erysimum Barbarea*, *Chrysosplenium Alternifolium*, *Saxifraga hypnoides*, *Matricaria Parthenium*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Asplenium Scolopendrium*, *A. Ruta muraria*, *Polypodium Lonchitis*, *P. pbeopteris*, *P. fragile*, *Lycopodium clavatum*, *L. Selaginoides*, *L. Selago*, *L. Alpinum*.

The *Sambucus nigra* (elder tree, Eng.) is no stranger in many places of the parish. Some of the trees are very well shaped, and by the natural bending of the branches cause an agreeable shade, or bower, exhibiting an example of the propriety of the name given to that species of plants  
in



in Scotland, namely, the *Bower-trees*. A great number of beautiful oaks ornament the estate of Ballikinrain. The largest, and probably the oldest in the parish, grows in full vigour at Killearn place. The trunk is 12 feet circumference, and supports many stately branches that widely display a foliage uncommonly pleasant. No production of the vegetable kingdom in this parish is, however, more remarkable than two large yew trees at Ballikinrain. One is the berry bearing kind, the other not. The trunk of the former is 8 feet in circumference, of the latter, 10 feet 8 inches. They are only 9 feet separate from each other, making the appearance, at a distance, of a single tree only; they are about 60 feet in height. Nine large branches strike off from the male plant, at the height of 6 feet from the ground: they make a beautiful curve downwards, so that their extremities touch the earth, and cover an area of 18 yards diameter, forming a most agreeable shade, impenetrable at all times to rain. As there is no account, even by tradition, when they were planted, their age must be great. They are frequented by a considerable number of the golden crested wren, (*Motacila Regulus*), the smallest bird in Europe, and, except the humming bird, probably in the world. They build their nests under the curving extremities of the branches, where the foliage is thickest. Their nests are constructed with exquisite art, and are suspended under the twigs, like so many little baskets from the ceiling of a room.

This part of the country is far from being destitute of exotic plants in a high degree of perfection. This is particularly the case with respect to the *larix*, a great number of which adorn the banks and inclosures at the house of Killearn. They are about 60 years old, being among the first of the kind that were planted in the open field in Scotland; they are generally 3 feet diameter at the thickest,  
and



and have grown to the tallness of nearly 100 feet. For beauty and size very few, if any of the kind in Scotland surpass them. In the vicinity of the *larixes* are many beautiful spruce and beech trees, of uncommonly large dimensions. The oriental maple, the sweet chestnut and tulip trees have, in this place, arrived to great perfection and beauty.

*Minerals, &c.*—With respect to the mineral kingdom, few things in this parish merit particular attention. The higher parts of the hills consist chiefly of a decomposable whinstone, containing, in some places, small veins of an hæmatitical iron ore; but the quantity yet discovered is too small to become an object of importance. In some places on the sides of the hills, are found many successive strata of till and limestone. These are beautifully displayed in several places where large excavations have been made by means of water. The limestone is of two kinds, and is wrought but in small quantities. The preferable kind is not disposed in regular compact strata, but rather in irregular masses, imbedded in a reddish clay blotched with white. The inferior kind is called *camstone*, from its being chiefly found in glens. It is disposed in thin, but numerous regular strata, separated from each other by a bluish till, that, when acted upon by the weather, falls down into clay. The *camstone*, when broken, has a smooth surface; it contains a great proportionable quantity of clay in its composition; and after it is sufficiently burnt, and whilst red hot in the fire, it must be slacked with water poured upon it, otherwise it will not readily fall down into lime. The strata are so thin, that they are not thought to be worth working. Fragments of the stone, which fall down from the sides of the glens, are occasionally gathered for use. Some varieties of it, which crumble down by exposure to the weather, might, without being burnt, serve for the purpose



purpose of manure. An extensive stratum of an excellent millstone grit enriches the estate of Balglass, and supplies the country to a great distance with millstones. The quarry began to be regularly wrought about 40 years ago; it is now cut down to the depth of 24 feet, and can afford stones of any size, and of 3 different qualities. A very thick stratum of soft freestone, the grit not fine, prevails in all the lower grounds of the parish; its depth has not yet been discovered. It is of a red colour, but variegated with blotches, and streaks of white and grey. It is not of the best quality for building, and affords no symptoms of any valuable mineral in the vicinity. Several trials, by *boring* and *banking*, have been made to find coal, but unsuccessfully; and I do not think that any where in the parish the symptoms of that useful fossil are favourable. Amongst the stones in this parish may be mentioned a jasper, which abounds in the banks of Enrick, and likewise in the parishes of Buchanan, Balfrone, and Fintry. The colours are brown, red and green intermixed, in the form of blotches and ramifications; some nodules resemble the bloodstone, whilst others contain a considerable portion of the zoned agate, which abounds in many places of Scotland. The jasper takes a fine polish, and has been cut into seals, buttons, &c.

*Climate.*—The climate is wet and cold, but the air is not insalubrious. The inhabitants are not remarkably subject to any epidemical disease. Many of them live to a considerable old age: There are four persons at present between 80 and 90 years of age. John Buchanan of Provanstoun, aged 104, died here *anno* 1792.

*Agriculture.*—The most of the hilly part of the parish is yet in a state of nature, having never been plowed; but



the lower grounds are generally arable. The former contains several extensive moors and mosses, which are chiefly occupied in sheep-walks; the latter, (not the half of the extent of the parish), is for the most part inclosed with stone-dikes and hedges. The soil is, for the most part, of a stiff clay that becomes excessively hard when dry, and generally has a wet cold tilly bottom. In some districts, however, are a few fields of a loamy soil, which produce good crops of oats, barley and pease. The climate is very unfavourable for the culture of wheat; but the cultivation of lint, potatoes, ryegrass and clover, is attended with profit. There is, however, more cropped with oats than with all the rest put together. The cultivation of turnip in the open field is not practised, although, from some few trials that were made on that profitable root, there is reason to believe that it might be attended with considerable advantage in several thousand acres in the parish. Extremely few of the lately improved implements of husbandry have here been brought into practice. The common Scotch plough, wrought with four horses, is in general use. The farmer, before agriculture can be brought to any tolerable degree of perfection, must direct his care to free his land from under water, which almost universally prevails. But the practice of draining, although very much needed, meets here with small attention.

Few places afford better opportunities for irrigation than this parish. The country is abundantly supplied with excellent water that pours down from the adjacent heights in springs and small rivulets, which could easily be directed over the numerous declivities. This mode of improvement was a few years ago tried with success in Mr Dunmore's estate. The land over which the water was made to flow, produced grass uncommonly luxuriant, and retained through the whole year a fine verdure.

Attention



Attention is beginning to be paid to the breeding of milch-cows by crossing the Ayrshire with the native breed, which approaches nearly to the Highland. The native cows are generally of a black colour, with white faces; and weigh, when fat, about 16 stone heavy weight. The milk of a cow *per* day in summer, is commonly about 4½ pints Scotch. The milk is mostly made into butter, that brings at an average 9 d. *per* lb. The skimmed milk is made into cheese that is sold from 4 s. to 5 s. *per* stone. Grazing cattle for slaughter is, in many parts of the parish, carried to a considerable extent, and is attended with profit. The moorland farms are stocked with about 1400 score of the black and grey faced sheep. A few Spanish sheep were, in the beginning of 1793, brought by Mr Dunmore to Ballikrain, and are thriving very well. Horses for the draught are of the Lanarkshire breed, and are chiefly purchased at Glasgow and Rutherglen markets. Not a few of the farmers, however, are in the practice of rearing horses on their farms. Two-wheeled carts, and waggons with one horse, are very generally used; but sledges are found to be necessary in the moorland farms.

The arable land is in general divided into farms of about 60 acres each. These are let in leases chiefly of 19 years duration. The lands in the estate of Killearn are, for the encouragement of the farmer, generally let in leases of three 19 years; and the consequences are far from being bad, for the tenants are, on the whole, doing very well. Care, however, is very properly taken by the Lord Chief Baron, to give this encouragement only to persons of active and industrious habits, and who have a spirit for agricultural improvements. Long leases to an indolent farmer, even although at certain terms there may be a proportionated rise in the rent, only encourages his insuperable indolence. He seeks no more than merely to scrape together as much as will  
barely



barely pay the rent, and keep his family in life. The land is worn out to the last; his domestics are trained up in habits of negligence and sloth; a bad example is set before the community;—and Poverty stares with her meagre countenance, in the house and in the field.

The moorland farms are several hundred acres in extent. The great disparity of soil and situation, occasions a similar disparity of the rent of land. From 10s. to 15s. *per acre* is a common rent for arable land; but some of it is no higher than 6s. or 7s. Some places, especially on the banks of Blane and Enrick, where the soil is very good, are usually rented at L. 1, 10s. *per acre*; but in many parts of the moors an acre is not worth more than 6d. and in the mosses not worth 1d. The increase of manufactures in the neighbourhood, and the advancement of agricultural improvements, for which there is great room in the parish, will probably raise considerably the value of land. The parish is supplied with seven corn-mills and two lint-mills, which have abundance of water all times of the year. To these mills the most part of the parish yet continues to be attracted.

*Trade.*—Every encouragement is given the farmer by having a profitable and ready market in *Balfrone*, to which he has an easy access. The late rapid population of that newly erected village, has greatly improved the adjacent country. This pleasing alteration arises wholly from a variety of manufactures, recently introduced into the neighbourhood, chiefly by Robert Dunmore of Ballindalloch, Esq. This public-spirited gentleman, inspired with the ambition of doing good to mankind by employing them in useful industry, began his improvements in the year 1788, by establishing a muslin manufactory at Balfrone. This village, which is in the immediate neighbourhood of Killearn,



learn, and which formerly contained no more than six or seven families, was at that time laid out according to a regular plan, and now contains no fewer than 220 families. The houses, many of which are 2 stories high, are in general covered with slate. The *Ballikinrain* cotton-mill was erected by Mr Dunmore in 1792. It is constructed for spinning woollen as well as cotton; the former for the carpet, the latter for the muslin manufacture. This work, at present carried on under the management of Mr Robert Macmorran from Douglas, employs about 100 persons, most of whom reside in the neighbourhood of the mill. The greatest manufacturing work in the parish is *Enrick printfield*, which was begun in 1792. The operative part of the business is carried on by Mr J. F. Moriar, a Swiss, under the firm of Messrs Monteith, Warren, and Company, Glasgow. The buildings are constructed to contain 16 printing presses, to go by water, and 72 tables for block-printing, besides boiling-houses, dye-houses, &c. for executing business on a very extensive scale. Every part of the apparatus is new, and of the most approved construction, especially the washing wheels, which are not surpassed by any in Europe. One of the bleaching-fields, consisting of a plain of 15 acres, is secured from the inundations of Enrick by an artificial bank, the raising of which cost a considerable sum of money. Business was begun here in the month of June 1793. But unfortunately an entire stop was almost put to the work by the present stagnation of trade, which has communicated its baneful influence through all this country. The whole work at present (Sept. 1793) employs no more than 250 persons, the most of whom reside in Balfrone.

*Manufactures, Wages, &c.*—The manufactures in the parish, besides what are carried on in the places already mentioned,



mentioned, are not very considerable. Their state may, in general, be known from the following list of tradesmen and artificers:—Blacksmiths, 4; coopers, 4; dyers, 4; flax-dressers, 3; gardeners, 2; hosiery, 11; masons, 7; shoemakers, 12; tailors, 5; weavers, 28; wrights, 14.—Masons and wrights receive 1s. 8d. a-day, during summer, and from 1s. to 1s. 2d. in winter. Tailors work in their employers houses, each receiving, besides his victuals, 10d. for his day's work. The hosiery are all employed by manufacturers in Glasgow, and are paid by the piece. A day labourer has from 8d. to 1s. a-day, with victuals; and 1s. 3d. or 1s. 4d. without victuals. A man-servant for country work has from L. 3 to L. 5 Sterling, *per* half-year, besides bed, board and washing; a woman-servant has about L. 2. All the shoemakers are engaged in *customary work*, a common expression for home consumpt. In this also all the weavers are at present employed. That so many looms should be engaged in customary work for so small a number of people, ceases to be a wonder when it is considered that very little cloth of foreign manufacture is worn in the parish. The inhabitants continue the practice of making cloth for their own wearing. The men are decently clothed, both for *kirk and market*, with well-dressed *Scots cloth*, commonly of a brown, grey, or blue colour. In this they think themselves to be warmer and more comfortable than in the best English superfine. The womens apparel is chiefly a variety of stuffs of their own manufacture; as *Bengals*, a kind of cloth of linen warp, and cotton west; *drugget*, composed of linen warp and woollen west; *barns*, and other coarse linens of various kinds, besides plaiding, both tweeled and plain, for gowns and petticoats. Their bed-cloaths, as blankets, ticking, &c. are wholly of their own making. The linen yarn they spin from lint of their own raising, and the woollen from fleeces the product



duft of ſheep farms in the pariſh. They praſtiſe the arts of ſcouring and bleaching their woollen and linen, which, for the ſafety of both yarn and cloth, they prefer to the methods uſed in ſome bleachfields. A lye made of breckins (*pteris aquilina*, LINN.) is of great uſe to them, both for waſhing and bleaching. The method of preparing this lye is very ſimple. The breckins are cut when arrived at their full growth, and always when dry. As ſoon as convenient after being cut, they are mixed with dried broom; both are laid in a heap, and burned. No more broom is uſed than what is neceſſary to aſſiſt in thoroughly burning them. Along with the broom is ſometimes added the dried roots of cabbages and green kail. The aſhes of the whole are carefully collected; and boiled in water until all the alkali is diſſolved; then the lye is poured off for uſe. In this lye the yarn or cloth is boiled for a certain time; and the bleaching is thereby greatly accelerated. Not a few of the inhabitants dye a conſiderable variety of colours, from materials the product of the country. In the proper management of their cloth, however, they are greatly aſſiſted by *Mr William Jamifon*, dyer and clothdrefſer at Runroy near Gartnefs, who has brought the dyeing and drefſing of Scots cloth to a conſiderable degree of perfection. Cloth is ſent him to be dyed and drefſed from Glasgow, Stirling, and all the country round. Mr Jamifon manufactures plaids, duſſies, blankets, &c. &c. for ſale; and his demands are daily increaſing.

In addition to what the induſtrious women of Killearn make for their family wear, they bring a conſiderable quantity of cloth to the market. As much uſually of every web is expoſed to ſale, as defrays the out-laid expences for weaving, &c. For this overplus they find abundance of customers, either in the city of Glasgow, or



at three fairs annually held in the village of Killearn. Scots cloth is sold from 10 d. to 5 s. 6 d. *per* yard; harn from 8 d. to 1 s. 5 d.; linen from 1 s. 6 d. to 3 s.

By a community so actively employed, little time is wasted in idleness, intemperance, or political cabals. There are, however five public houses in the parish, but they are chiefly frequented by travellers. Two turnpike-roads, lately made through the parish, are of great service to the inhabitants. The statute-labour, which is mostly raised in money at 18 s. Sterling *per* L. 100 Scots of valued rent, is applied to private roads, which are still far from being in a good condition.

The greatest impediment to improvements in this part of the country is the scarcity of good fuel. The nearest coal is in Campsie or Baldernock, at the distance of 10 or 12 miles. The price at the hill is 1 s. 6 d. the cart-load, containing about 12 cwt. The carriage comes to about 4 s. The scarcity of coal is supplied by *turf* and *peat*, for obtaining which the feuars and tenants have a servitude on the moors. The turf is procured by setting fire to the grass and heath about the month of June, and then raising the surface with what is called a *slaughter spade*. This practice greatly injures the moors by depriving them of their verdure, which necessarily requires several years to be renewed. The loss, however, is in some measure repaid by the great quantity of ashes for manure, procured from this kind of fuel.

*Religion.*—With respect to the state of religion, few observations occur that merit the attention of the public. The people in general regularly attend divine service in the parish church. There are only about 12 adherents to the different parties of Seceders. Several respectable clergymen, since the reformation from Popery, have successively been ministers of the parish, as Mess. Fortter, Gillespie, Sempell and Craig,



Craig, before the Revolution in 1668. Since that time the people have been happy under the successful ministry of Messrs George Park, James Bain, James Morrison, and the present incumbent, James Graham, who was ordained *anno* 1768. The church was rebuilt in the year 1734, and is conveniently seated. Mr John Finlayson has, for nearly 40 years, officiated as parochial schoolmaster. The salary is L. 8, 13 s. yearly. The wages for English, writing, and arithmetic are only 1 s. 6 d. *per* quarter. Three or four private schools have, for some time past, been kept in different parts of the parish; the numerous rivulets and deep glens by which the country is intersected, render, to children living at a distance, the access to the parochial school always dangerous, and often impossible.

*State of the Poor.*—Paupers usually on the session-list are from 10 to 15, who, according to their need, receive from 4 s. to 16 s. *per* quarter. A few indigent families receive, after the sacrament, a little supply, as the minister and elders see proper. The funds for answering these charitable purposes amount annually to about L. 30, the most of which is collected in boxes handed by the elders through the church, immediately before pronouncing the blessing in the forenoon. None of the poor are permitted to beg. To be so poor as to need assistance from the kirk-session is in this, and most other places of Scotland, where poor taxes are not established, accounted a disgrace, as such a state is commonly considered as proceeding, for the most part, either from indolence or mismanagement. Every attempt to eradicate, or even to weaken such a sense of shame, is doing a manifest injury to society.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Superstition yet continues to operate so strongly on some people, that they put a small



quantity of salt into the first milk of a cow after calving, that is given any person to drink. This is done with a view to prevent *skaitb*, if it should happen that the person is not *cany*. A certain quantity of cow dung is forced into the mouth of a calf immediately after it is calved, or at least before it receives any meat; owing to this, the vulgar believe that witches and fairies can have no power ever after to injure the calf. But these, and such like superstitious customs, are every day more and more losing their influence.

At *Blareffen Spout-head*, if we believe tradition, a bloody battle was fought between the Romans and Scots; several stones set on edge have continued ever since to distinguish the spot. The tenant, a few years ago, would have carried all the stones away, had he not been strictly prohibited by Mr Buchanan of Carbeth, the proprietor of the ground, who had got notice of his intentions.

A very large cairn some time ago was demolished in the muir of Killearn, and the stones used for building dikes. This ancient sepulchral *tumulus* concealed, in the bottom of it, a coffin, composed of stones so very large that they could not easily be removed, without being first broken in pieces.

A phenomenon not unworthy the attention of the public, is an old woman, who, owing to excessive grief, about 20 years ago, became deranged in her judgment. She was then about 50 years of her age. The hair of her head soon afterwards became thin and very grey, in which state it continued till about 5 years ago, when it gradually turned black, thick, and strong. She generally goes with her head bare, and has not yet recovered the right use of her reason.

The *kippering* of salmon is successfully practised in several parts of the parish. All the blood is taken from the fish immediately after it is killed; this is done by cutting the



the gills; it is then cut up at the back, on each side the bone or chain, as it is commonly called. The bone is taken out, but the tail, with two or three inches of the bone is left; the head is cut off; all the guts are taken out; but the skin of the belly is left uncut; the fish is then laid, with the skin undermost, on a board, and is well rubbed, and covered over with a mixture of equal quantities of common salt and Jamaica pepper. Some of this mixture is carefully spread under the fins to prevent them from corrupting, which they are exceedingly ready to do, especially, if the weather is warm. A board with a large stone is sometimes laid upon the fish, with a view to make the salt penetrate into it more effectually. In some places, as Dumbarton, instead of a flat board, a shallow wooden trough is used, by which means the brine is kept about the fish; sometimes two or three salmon are kippered in the same vessel at the same time, one being laid upon the other. The fish, with the board or trough, is set in a cool place for two or three days; it is then removed from the board, and again rubbed with salt and pepper, after which it is hung up by the tail, and exposed to the rays of the sun, or the heat of the fire. Care is previously taken to stretch out the fish by means of small sticks or hoops placed across it from side to side. After it has remained in the heat a few days, it is hung up in the kitchen, or other dry place, till used. Every method is taken to keep the fish from putrefaction. It is an error to suppose, as some have ignorantly done, that kippered salmon means corrupted salmon.

Some people, in order to give the kipper a peculiar taste, highly relished by not a few, carefully smoke it with peat reek, or the reek of Juniper bushes. This is commonly done by hanging it up so near a chimney in which peats, or Juniper bushes are burnt, as that it receives the smoke.



smoke. There it remains two or three weeks, by which time it generally acquires the taste. Salmon kippered in this manner usually sells 2 d. *per lb.* higher than when fresh.

This parish and neighbourhood were, for a long time, unhappily exposed to the plundering inroads of large companies of migratory freebooters, who for safety lurked in the borders of the Highlands. These depredators made frequent incursions into the parishes of Buchanan, Balfrone, Killearn, Dumbarton, Kilpatrick, &c. and carried off all the cattle they could find. This infamous practice was continued so late as the year 1743, and perhaps later. Long before that, however, some gentlemen near the border of the Highlands, undertook, for certain sums of money, to protect the property of their neighbours, or to make a full recompence for what was stolen from them. The money paid for this protection was called the *Black Mail*, and was paid agreeably to a bargain concluded upon by the two contracting parties. One of the original contracts remains in the possession of Mr Dunmore at Ballikinrain. As this contract is not only a literary curiosity, but is perhaps the only contract of the kind now existing, and as it exhibits a true picture of the state of the country so late as the year 1741, and likewise leads us to form an idea of the happy alteration that has since taken place, the subjoined copy of it *verbatim* will not, it is presumed, be unacceptable to the public, especially as the report of the *Black Mail* is so generally, yet so imperfectly known \*.

\* Copy of a Contract for keeping a Watch on the Borders of the Highlands, *anno* 1741.

It is contracted, agreed, and finally ended betwixt the parties underwritten, to witt: James and John Graham elder and younger of Glen-gyle, on the one part, and the gentlemen, heritors, and tenants, within  
the



the shires of Perth, Stirling, and Dumbarton, who are hereto subscribing, on the other part, in manner following: Whereas, of late years, several persons within the bounds aforesaid have been very great sufferers through stealing of their cattle, horses, and sheep; for preventing whereof the said James and John Grahams, with and under the conditions, provisions, and for the causes after specified, hereby bind and oblige them, conjunctly and severally, their heirs, executors, and successors, that the said James Grahame shall keep the lands subscribed for, and annexed to the respective subscriptions, skaitheless of any loss, to be sustained by the heritors, tenants, or inhabitants thereof, through the stealing and away taking of their cattle, horses, or sheep, and that for the space of seven years complete, from and after the term of Whitsunday next to come; and for that effect, either to return the cattle so stolen from time to time, or otherways, within 6 moneths after the theft committed, to make payment to the persons from whom they were stolen, of their true value, to be ascertained by the oaths of the owners, before any Judge-ordinary; providing always, that intimation be made to the said James Graham, at his house in Corrielet, or where he shall happen to reside for the time, of the number and marks of the cattle, sheep, or horse stolen, and that within 48 hours from the time that the proprietors thereof shall be able to prove by hable witnesses, or their own or their herds oaths, that the cattle a-missing were seen upon their usual pasture within the space of 48 hours previous to the intimation, as said is; and declaring, that it shall be sufficient if the heritors or tenants, be-south or be-east the town of Drymen, make intimation in writing at the house of Archibald Strang, merchant in Drymen, of their losses in the before mentioned, to a person to be appointed by the said James Graham of Glengyle to attend their for that purpose, and in his absence to the said Archibald. And further, it is specially condescended to and agreed upon, that the said James Grahame shall not be bound for restitution in cases of small pickereys; declaring, that an horse or black cattle stolen within or without doors, or any number of sheep above six, shall be constructed to be theft, and not pickerey. And with regard to horses and cattle stolen within the bounds aforesaid, and carried to the south, the said James Grahame obliges him, that he shall be as serviceable to the gentlemen subscribers in that case as he possibly can; and if he cannot recover them, he submits himself to the discretion of the heritors in whose ground the theft is committed, whether he shall be liable for their value or not.

And it is hereby expressly provided and declared by both parties, That in case of war within the country, that this present contract shall thenceforth cease and become void; for the which causes, and on the  
other



other part, the heritors and tenants hereto subscribing, with and under the provisions and declarations above and under written, bind and oblige them, their heirs, executors, and successors, to make payment to the said James Grahame of Glengyle, or to any person he shall appoint to receive the same, of the sum of L. 4 yearly during the space foresaid, for ilk hundred pound of ye valued rent of the lands annexed to their respective subscriptions, and that at two terms in the year, Whitsunday and Martinmas, by equal portions, beginning the first terms payment thereof at the said term of Whitsunday nixt, for the half year immediately following, and so furth, to continue at the saids terms during the continuance of these presents: provideing always, like as is hereby specially provided and declared, that it shall be leisome and lawful for both parties to quitt and give up this present contract at the end of every year if they think fit, intimation being always made on the part of the said James Grahame at the respective kirk-doors within the bounds aforesaid, on a Sabbath day, immediately after the forenoon's sermon, a moneth before expiration of the year: and on the part of the heritors and other subscribers, by a letter to the said James Grahame from them, and another from him, acknowledging the receipt thereof, or the attestation of two witnesses, that the letter was left at his house, or was delyvered to himself two moneths before expyryng of the year; it being always understood, that any subscriber may quitt and give up the contract for his own part, whether the rest concur or not at the end of each year, as said is. And both parties bind and oblidge them and their foresaids to perform the premises *bruc inde* to others under the penalty of L. 20 Sterling, to be payed by the party failzier to the party observer, or willing to observe their part thereof, attour performance. And moreover, for the said James Grahame's further encouragement, and for the better restraining the evil practices above mentioned, the subscribers hereby declare, that it is their intention that all such thieves and pickers as shall be apprehended by the said James Grahame of Glengyle, or occasionally by any other person within the bounds aforesaid, against whom there is sufficient proof, shall be prosecute according to law, and brought to justice. And for greater security, both the saids parties consent to the registration hereof in the books of Council and Session, or others competent, that letters of horning on six dayes, and other executorials needfull, may pass hereon as effeirs. And to that effect they constitute

their procurators, &c. In witness whereof, both the saids parties have subscribed these presents, consisting of this and the preceding sheet, written on stamped paper, by Andrew Dick, chyrurgeon in Drymen, at Bal-  
glas,



gla, the twentyeth day of Aprile Im vije and fourty-one years, by Robert Bontein of Mildovan, before William M<sup>c</sup>Lea his servant, and Mr William Johnston schoolmaster at Balglas, the said Robert Bontein having filled up his first date, and witness names and designations. At Ballikrain the taintie-first day of foresaid moneth and year, by James Napier of Ballikrain, before Alexander Yuill his servant, and Gibert Couan, tenant in Ballikrain, the said James Napier having filled up this second date, witness names and designations. Att Boquhan the twenty-second day of Aprile, moneth foresaid, and year, by Hugh Buchanan of Balquhan, before these witnesses, John Paterfon and Robert Duncan, both tenants yr. Att Glins, the twenty-seventh day of moneth and year foresaid, before these witnesses, Walter Monteath of Key, and John Buchanan younger of Glins. Att Easter Glins, the twenty-seventh day of moneth and year foresaid, before these witnesses, Walter Monteath of Key, and Thomas Wright younger of Easter Glins, subscribet be Alexander Wright of Puffid. Att Ammere, the first day of Mey seventin hundred and fortie-one years, before thees witness, Archibald Leckie of Ammere, and Walter Monteath younger of Key, Walter Monteath, att above place, day, date, year, and witnesses, by James Key portioner of Edenbelly, month, date, place, and year aforesaid, before these witnesses, Walter Monteath therein, and Walter Monteith younger of Key, and by Robert Galbraith at Fintrie, fourth May, before Robert Farrie of Balgrochan, and James Ure, tenant in Hilltowne of Balgair.

Will. Johnston, witness.  
William M<sup>c</sup>Lea, witness.  
Gibert Cowan, witness.  
Alexander Yuill, witness.  
John Paterfon, witness.  
Robert Duncan, witness.  
Walter Monteath, witness.  
John Buchanan, witness.  
Thomas Wright, witness.  
Archibald Leckie, witness.  
Walter Monteith, witness.  
Alexander Wright, witness.  
Archibald Leckie, witness.  
Walter Monteath, witness.  
Walter Monteath, witness.  
Robert Farrie, witness.

Robert Bontein of Mildovan, for my lands of Balglas in the paroch of Killern, being Three hundred and fifty pound of valuation; and lands of Provanstoun, in the paroch of Balfron, Ninety-seven pound seven shilling valuation.

James Napier of Ballikrain, for my lands in the paroch of Killern, being Two hundred and sixtie pound of valuation. And for my Lord Napier's lands in said paroch, being Three hundred and twentie-eight pound of valuation. And for Culcreuch's lands in the paroch of Fintrie, being Seven

James



James Ure, witness.

John Buchanan, witness.

James McGrime, witness.

hundred and twentie seven pound of valuation. And for said Calereuch's lands, in the paroch of Balfroue, being One hundred and ten pound of valuation.

Ha. Buchanan of Balquhan, for my lands of Boughan and Branshogle, in the paroch of Kilsarn, being One hundred and seventy-three pound of valuation.

Moses Buchapan of Glin, Two hundred sextie-two pound valuation.

John Wright of Eder Glin, Sixtie-six pound val.

Alexander Wright of Pufide, On hundred and foure pound and fix shiling and eightpenny Scot valuation.

Walter Monteath of Kyp, Three hundred pounds valuation.

James Key, portioner of Enblioy, for sextiey-six pond Scots valuation.

Robert Galbraith, portioner of Edinbely, for thuitie-three pound Scots valuation.

Alexander Buchanan of Cremanan, for my land of Cremanan, in the paroch of Balfrou, and being Two hundred and sixty-eight pound of valuation.

And the saids James and John Grahames have subscribed these presents at Buchanan, the eleventh of June 1aj vij and forty-one years, before David Grime of Orchill, and John Smith writer in Buchanan : Declaring, that notwithstanding of the date of the saids James and John Grahame's subscription, yet it shall be understood, that the obligations on beth partys by this contract shall and do commence from Whitfunday 1aj vij and forty-one, in regard it was agreed betwixt the partys, that the saids obligations should commence at that term. The date, witnesses



nesses names and designations, with this declaration, being wrote by the said John Smith, and declared to be part of this contract.

Da Grzme, witness.

Ja. Grahame.

John Smith, witness.

John Graham.

It would appear, from the following letter, that this contract was not disadvantageous to Mr Grahame :

Sir,

*Balikinrain, May 25 1743.*

Notwithstanding of the contract entered into betwixt several gentlemen of the shires of Stirling and Dumbarton, you and I, annent keeping of a watch, whereby you was to pay yearly four *per cent.* of valuation; yet I now agree with you for three *per cent.* for the lands you have contracted for; and that for the first term of Whitsunday, and in time comeing during the standing of the contract. And I am, Sir, your most humble servant,

J.A. GRAHAME.

Leaving the reader to make what reflections on this curious contract he pleases, I shall only observe, that Mr Grahame, in this affair, is to be considered as a more successful keeper of the peace, defender of justice, and guaranteeing power, than most who have assumed these characters; for by his activity and vigilance, in a few years, justice, honesty and peace were, in this part of the country, established on a firm and lasting foundation, and continue to operate without the aid of contracts, watches, or guarantees.



## NUMBER VI.

## PARISH OF NEWBURN,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF  
ST ANDREW'S.

*By the Rev. Mr LAWRIE, Minister.*

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*Extent, Situation, Surface.*

THE parish of Newburn, is, on an average, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  English miles long, and 2 broad, is situated in the Presbytery of St Andrew's, and Synod of Fife, bounded on the E. by Kilconquhar; on the W. by Largo; by part of both these parishes on the N. and on the S. by the sea. The soil in general is very fertile, and produces excellent crops. Almost the whole land in the parish is arable and inclosed. The late Mr Craigie of Lawhill (now Hall-hill) began inclosing, and the farmers seem fully convinced of its advantages. Wheat grew here more than half a century ago; but a far greater quantity is raised now than before. Turnips and potatoes were introduced many years ago likewise; but the former, owing to the natural



natural fertility of the soil, and the improved state of agriculture, have been cultivated with remarkable success. The luxuriant turnip-crops in this district in favourable seasons, might arrest the attention of the traveller, who has visited more fortunate climes.

*Population and State of the Poor.*—The population in 1755 was 438 souls. The number of souls was found by the minister, in the course of his parochial visitation in April 1794, to amount exactly to 456. From a recent enumeration it appeared, that the inhabitants under 10 years of age were 142. The annual average of births for the last 10 years appears from the register to be 12. The annual average of marriages is 3, and that of deaths 6. Though the climate is favourable to longevity, and epidemical distempers seldom prevail, infection is communicated when any malignant disease does appear, by the common people resorting from all quarters to the apartments of the sick, without adopting any means which would tend to prevent its diffusion. Far be it from any Christian to discourage innocent expressions of friendship to the distressed; yet the attendance of many idle visitors on the sick is extremely culpable. They not only hurt *them* in several respects, but also endanger their own lives, and those of their neighbours. On these accounts, the indiscriminate practice of visiting the sick, whether it proceeds from an impertinent curiosity, or a mistaken principle of benevolence, is often attended with the most fatal effects. But wherever prejudice or custom, in spite of salutary remonstrance, leads “every one to do that which is right in one’s own eyes,” many of consequence will do wrong.

The number of poor persons on the parish-roll is seven, who are supported by the collections on Sunday, and the  
interest



interest of a considerable sum of money appropriated to them. The relief granted to each individual varies according to the circumstances of the case. Beside their stated allowance, occasional supply is given where it is judged necessary. The poor are maintained in their own houses; and, on an average, the annual sum expended for their support, may be about L. 13 Sterling. But relief is not confined to these pensioners alone. The established provision for the benefit of the indigent, enables the church-session to extend their charity, and receive the applications of families who are reduced to the necessity of soliciting assistance, in consequence of accidental misfortunes. Church-sessions are generally allowed to be the most faithful administrators of the funds for the maintenance of the poor; and indeed, their judicious arrangements have merited the approbation of the most enlightened part of the community.

*Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.*—It has been often remarked, that Newburn, for many years past, has been a nursery of Seceders; and remarked with surprise, that a small arm of the sea should be the boundary between *moderation* and *fanaticism*. Cameronians, Independents, persons belonging to the Burgher Congregation, and also to what is called the Relief Congregation, are to be found here. The number of Independents is about 20. They are the only sect who have a place of meeting for public worship in the parish. The members of the Relief Congregation are about the same number; the Burghers amount to 12; and the number of Cameronians is confined to two. It is pleasing, however, to a philosophic and a pious mind to perceive, that the intolerant party-spirit which has too often characterized sectaries, is far less prevalent



valent than in former times. Diversity of religious sentiments does not prevent social intercourse, and mutual good offices.

In describing the general character of the people, it is but justice to pronounce them sober, regular, industrious. Humanity, too, it must be mentioned to their honour, holds a conspicuous place in the catalogue of their virtues. It is but justice also to add, that of late no addition has been made to the number of Seceders in this parish; on the contrary, one of the elders of the Relief Congregation has returned to the Established Church: rational religion seems to be gaining ground; and the small remainder of enthusiasm will most probably die with them who cherish it.

The patroness of the parish is Mrs Halket Craigie of Hall-hill. There are 7 heritors; at present only 3 of them reside in the parish. The benefice here is one of those which greatly requires increase; and a process of augmentation is about to be commenced. The money-stipend at present is L. 40 : 11 : 1 Sterling, and the victual-stipend consists only of 7 bolls of wheat, 32 bolls 1 peck of bear, and 24 bolls, 3 firlots, 3 pecks of oats. The glebe scarcely includes 4 acres. The victual-stipend, at an average, is but L. 40 Sterling *per annum*, as part of the lands which pay stipend are of an inferior quality.

*School.*—The parochial school is of considerable repute. Several gentlemen's sons resort to it for education, which they receive on very moderate terms. English is taught for 1 s. 6 d.; writing and English for 2 s.; arithmetic for 2 s. 6 d.; and Latin for 2 s. 6 d. *per* quarter. The local situation is eligible in two respects: It is favourable both to their health and their morals. The air is salubrious;  
and



and the youth are not exposed to the contagion of those vices which unhappily prevail in large towns.

About the middle of the last century, John Wood, Esq; proprietor of the lands of Orkie, destined that property after his death for erecting a free grammar school in the parish of Drumelry, *alias* Newburn, and maintaining six poor scholars thereat. The rent of these lands is now about L. 140 Sterling *per annum*, and the parochial schoolmaster educates and maintains the poor scholars on Mr Wood's *mortification*, as it is called in Scottish law language; for he officiates in a double capacity, being chosen both by the heritors and the patrons of the mortification already mentioned. By the deed, 'Sir Thomas 'Gourlay of Kincraig,' *&c.* 'the minister of Newburn,' *&c.* and 'their successors whatsoever, are appointed 'lawful, undoubted patrons of the foundation and mortification in all time coming.' Boys of the surname of *Wood* are always to have a preference.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—The yearly wages of farm-servants is about L. 7 for men, and L. 3 for women, beside their victuals. The wages of the day-labourer is 1 s.; in time of harvest they are rather higher; for mowing hay he gets, *per* day, 1 s. 6 d. The day wages of a mason is from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s.; of a tailor 1 s. when he furnishes provisions to himself; and when victuals are provided for him, 6 d.

The average price of beef is 3½ d. *per* lb.; of veal, 3½ d.; and of mutton the same. The price of a hen, at an average, is 1 s.; of a duck, 9 d.; of a pig fit for table, 5 s. Butter is about 8 d. *per* lb. But the price of labour and provisions, in general, is more than doubled within these 30 years.

*Improvements*



*Improvements suggested.*—Besides putting the roads in better repair, the establishment of a more regular market would also be a very considerable advantage in this part of the country. Another disadvantage, under which not only this, but the adjacent parishes labour, is the weight of bread being left entirely to the will of the baker. Wherever this is the case, the consumer is liable to suffer loss; and the very exemption from any regulation on this point is a temptation to injustice. A remedy certainly exists somewhere, and it ought to be speedily applied. To remove the local inconvenience complained of, or rather the general evil, might not the bread be occasionally inspected by some proper person appointed for that purpose by the justices of the peace? And wherever the weight is found deficient, let the bread be given to the poor. The very idea of being subject to the jurisdiction of the justices of peace, or of feeling the consequences of the complaints lodged with them, would operate as a powerful restraint on men who have it in their power to impose both on the rich and the poor, it is said, by charging what they chuse for a loaf, which might be purchased in other places, where there is a check and controuling power over bakers, for a far more reasonable price. While some of the people complain of imaginary grievances under the happy constitution where they live, it is hoped the real one now specified will be removed as soon as it is possible.

*Antiquities.*—There are vestiges of the east part of the church having been a Roman Catholic chapel.

If we may give credit to the records and traditions which have been transmitted to us of that early period, the Culdees, who are thought to have been the first regular clergy in *Scotland*, had a church and residence in this parish



so early as the time of *Malcolm Canmore*. The earliest records which we have of these monks mention Hungus the first King of the Picts, as their Great Benefactor; and St Andrew's, or its neighbourhood, as their chief residence. Brude, the last King of the Picts, made a donation to them of the isle of Lochleven; Kirkness was given to them by *M<sup>r</sup> Beth*, son of *Finlay*; and their Majesties King *Malcolm*, and his Queen *St Margaret*, granted to them the village of *Balchristie* \*, (or, as it has been interpreted by some, the Town of Christian), in this parish. The present proprietor of the village (Mr Christie of Balchristie) informs me, that some years ago he dug up the foundation-stones of an old edifice near the western wall of his garden, and in the very place where, according to the best accounts, the church of the Culdees stood. Some say, this was the first Christian church in Scotland; and, indeed, the name of Balchristie, as above explained, and the high probability of the Culdees landing first on the adjacent inviting shore, give considerable countenance to the tradition.

*Additional Observations.*—This situation has been long admired for variegated scenery and an extensive view. The scene now before me, consisting of woods and waters, and hills and dales, is such as the writer of romance might have delighted to feign. *Hall-bill* at present appears in ruins; but a new mansion house, as is believed, will soon add to the beauty of these rural wilds. *Hæ latebræ dulces etiam, si credas amanae*. The gentlemen are elegantly lodged themselves; and their tenants have far better farm-houses than in former times. All ranks, indeed, seem to participate

\* *Vide* Guthrie's History of Scotland, and the authorities to which he refers.



participate more of the comforts and conveniencies of life than their fathers—more than many of themselves did in the days that are past. From the communications of the clergy, this seems to be the case through all the land, which is one proof, among many others, that might be produced, of the futility and the falsehood of those complaints which some malcontents have been pleased to advance against the government of Great Britain. But the period has now fortunately arrived when, in consequence of the vigilance of a vigorous administration, and the good sense of an enlightened people, *Britain is saved*, and *Villany*, it is presumed, will no longer dare to address Ignorance; the period has now fortunately arrived, when the eye of loyalty is gladdened to see, that they who had flocked to the standard of sedition are scattered: Yes! the auspicious period has arrived, when the Genius of our favoured isle, in all her native majesty and magnanimity, can proclaim: “ My children abhor the sanguinary factions of France. They disavow their principles, and detest their practice. Principles so base they leave for miscreants to teach, and madmen to believe. The season of delusion is past, and Britons love their native land. Many wanderers have returned to the *House of their Fathers*.”



## NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF PORTREE,  
 ANCIENTLY KILTARAGLAW,

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, AND  
 PRESBYTERY OF SKY.)

*By Mr ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, Schoolmaster, Portree.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**P**ORTREE was a part of Snizort till the year 1726, when it was erected into a separate parish; and is so called from its excellent harbour of the same name. Portree, or rather *Port a Rio*, (the King's Harbour), is a Gaelic word, compounded of *Port*, an Harbour, and *Rio*, a King. This name was probably given to it as far back as the thirteenth century, in the reign of Alexander III. of Scotland, when *Haco*, King of *Norway*, after his dreadful overthrow at the Largs by Alexander Stuart, *great-grandfather* of him, who, the first of that *name*, reigned in Scotland, put in there with the remains of his shipwrecked fleet; or, as some would have it, not till the times of James V. in consequence



consequence of that monarch's putting in there, in his *tour* through the Hebrides. It is situated in the presbytery of Sky, Synod of Glenelg, and County of Inverness. Its length from N. to S. is 9 computed miles, and its breadth throughout 3, besides the islands of Raafay and Ronay, that form a great part of it; the former of which, extending all along the coast, is of the same length, and from 3 to 1½ miles broad. Ronay is about 4 miles long, and near 2 broad; and the whole parish may contain an area of 41,900 square acres. It is bounded on the N. by Snizort; on the E. by the channel or sound that divides Raafay and Ronay from Applecrofs and Gairloch; on the S. by Strath; and on the W. by an extensive moor that separates it from Bracadale.

The variety of its hills, vallies, and plains, and the prospect of the Sound, which, excepting in some places on the coast, where it opens to the view, presents itself in the likeness of lochs or lakes, give the country a very agreeable and picturesque appearance, particularly in the milder seasons of the year; and throughout this part of the Highlands, scarcely any two places can boast of situations more beautiful and pleasant, than the place of *Portree* and *Glabchan*, or Kirktown, in the south end of Raafay, the proprietor's seat. On the W. Raafay rises with a seemingly easy ascent, to a great height above the sea, and terminates in a small, round, and green hill, flat at the top, and faced with rock, called *Dun-lan*, from its similitude, perhaps, at a distance, to these Danish forts, that go under the general name of *Dunes*, so frequent in the Highlands and islands; the meaning of the last part of the name is not certainly known. On the E. side of the island, the coast is very high, steep, and nearly approaching to a perpendicular; as is also the coast of Portree, on each side the mouth of the harbour; but more especially on the N. where huge cliffs



of stupendous height, and magnificently grand, rise one above another \*. At the bottom of these rocks above the shore, for more than 1-4th of a mile in length, is a declivity which, though steep, of difficult access, and every where interspersed with large loose stones that fall from the cliffs above, yields such excellent pasture, that the gentleman who possesses the farm to which it belongs, at the risk of losing some of them over the precipices, sends there every summer a part even of his milk cows. Here as well as over all Sky, from the height of the hills and proximity of the sea, the air seldom continues long of the same temperature; sometimes it is dry, oftener moist, and in the latter end of winter and beginning of spring, cold and piercing; at an average, three days in twelve throughout the year, scarcely free from rain, far less from clouds. These, attracted by the hills, sometimes break in useful and refreshing showers; at other times suddenly bursting, pour down their contents with tremendous noise, in impetuous torrents that deluge the plains below, and render the smallest rivulet impassable; which, together with the stormy winds so common in this country, in the months of August and September, frequently blast the hopes, and disappoint the expectations of the husbandman. Snow has been often known to lie on the ground from three to seven weeks; and on the highest hills, even in the middle of June, some spots of it are to be seen. To this various temperature of the air, and uncertainty of weather, the fevers and agues, headaches, rheumatisms, colds, and dysenteries, which are the prevalent distempers, may be ascribed. That it is far, however,

\* The entrance to the loch on the north side, presents a cragg resembling Salisbury Craig, and is called Nicolson's rock, from the family which inhabits the farm, who are said to have occupied it since the time of the Danes.



however, from being unwholesome, is sufficiently evinced by experience ; for the inhabitants are, in general, as strong and healthy, and arrive at as advanced an age, as those who live in milder climates, and under a serener sky. The gout is not known as a distemper affecting the inhabitants.

*Hills, Woods, Lakes, and Rivers.*—The most remarkable hill in the parish, is that which, W. S. W. of the harbour, rises above it, first, with an easy and gentle acclivity, but becomes steeper nearer the top. It is called *Ait Suidbe Thuin*, or Fingal's sitting place, because on the top of it is a green hillock, on which, says tradition, Fingal was wont to sit in state, point out the different courses, and survey his heroes pursuing the chase. From this hillock, in a clear day, the lofty hills of Cuillin and Strath, the parishes of Duirinish and Bracadale, the Long Island, North and South Uist, and Barra may be seen ; as likewise the west side of Troternish, Portree, Raasay, Applecross, Loch-Carron, and the interjacent seas. The sides of the hill are covered with several farms of different sizes ; and, except in some places N. and S. and towards the top, which is either rocky, or covered with heath, the whole is good pasture or arable ground. Nearly opposite to this hill, at a mile's distance, S. E. of the harbour, rises *Bein-Dean-a-bbaig*, or the hill of his defence, having also on its top a green hillock, called *Cruachan Mhic Swain*, (Macswain's eminence), remarkable only for its similarity to that on the top of *Ait Suidbe Thuin*, excepting the tradition, that a son of Swain, or *Sueno*, a Danish or Norwegian king, lies buried there, may be thought deserving of notice. On the side of *Bein-Dian-a-bbaig*, that looks towards Raasay, and which is extremely steep, rises a number of rocks of conical form, green at their tops, or covered with heath ; be-

tween



tween these rocks run small hollow vales, where sheep and goat find pasture; and at the bottom of the hill, on the same side, are several caves in which sea-fowl and wild pigeons nestle, and into some of which the sea, at high water, enters. The hill itself, on account of its height and peculiar form, is an infallible mark of the situation and place of the harbour. On the slopes of *Ait Suidhe Tbuin*, N. W. from the harbour, are to be seen the remains of a natural wood, consisting chiefly of birch and alder, which about 20 years ago, it is said, was in a tolerable good condition, but is now much decayed. About 30 years ago, some firs were planted on the farm of *Scorribrea*, north side of the entry to Portree; but, on account of its easterly exposure, and the sea air, they did not thrive well. No more than 500 or 600 trees, well sheltered, have arrived at any degree of perfection. In Raafay, there are two or three spots of natural wood, which, being usually well kept, are of no small use to the inhabitants and their neighbours, and of considerable emolument to the proprietor. The late Raafay planted several spots near his house, of which the parts better sheltered have done well; those more exposed have thriven but indifferently.

There are many fresh water lochs, of which two only are worthy of notice, *Loch-fad* and *Loch-leatban*, or the Long Loch and Broad Loch, one of them being long, and the other shorter, but much broader. They are in the north end of the parish, very highly situated, of considerable extent, and contain great plenty of white and red trout, flounder, and eel. The trout of *Loch-leatben* are in general very large, some of them weighing from 1 to 2, or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lb. They have no communication with the sea, but one from *Loch-leatben*, over a very high and extraordinary steep precipice, which forms a singular and curious cascade, that from the sea below appears beautiful and grand beyond



yond description. The most considerable rivers are those of *Higicban* and *Glenbbargil*, which scarcely deserve to be mentioned, but for the salmon caught in them in autumn and the latter end of summer. The former, formed by many streams rising in the hills of *Cuillin* and *Strath*, run through a glen that divides Minginish in Bracadale from the south end of Portree, and discharges itself into an inlet of the sea, called *Loch-Higicban*, two miles west of Sconser. Having no bridge, in times of heavy rains the stream is so violent and impetuous, that travellers dare not approach it. The latter derives its source from several small lochs in the moor N. W. of *Higiedan*, and after having run 2 miles through it, continues its course further for a mile and a half along the valley at the foot of *Ait Suidhe Thuin* into *Portree Loch*.

*Antiquities and Curiosities.*—There are two *Dunes*, or Danish forts, of round form, that bear marks of a very high antiquity; one old castle, formerly the seat of the Lairds of Raasay; and two Roman Catholic chapels. One of the dunes is situated on the coast; the other, inland. Of this last, scarcely 6 feet above the foundation remain, and within it is full of rubbish; the other is in a more entire state, and, like most of the same kind in the Highlands and islands, seem to have been built by the Danish or Norwegian invaders, rather as watch towers and strong holds, to receive and secure their plunder, than as places of constant or comfortable habitation. *Castle Broichin*, situated near the north end of Raasay, on the east coast, is a land-mark well known to mariners. The rock on which it stands, nearly round, and covering an area of little more than 70 feet square, is about 40 feet high, except in one place, where was the stair that led to it; and is itself, castle-like, placed on another rock, 60 feet at least above the level of the

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the sea. It is composed of different kinds of burnt stone, lime, and shell, that have all the appearance of being jumbled together, some time or other, by a volcanic eruption, and is of such firm and solid consistence, that the largest hammer, wielded by the strongest arm, could scarcely make any impression upon it. There are several rocks of the same kind in that part of the island; one of which, more curious than the rest, rises higher than that on which the castle stands, close by it, like an old and ruinous wall, from 5 to 8 feet broad, and 40 long, and in most places it is covered with ivy. This curious rock, on account of its ruinous and decayed appearance, was called *Broicbin*, and from it the castle got its name. The castle was built with stone and lime, is two storeys high, besides an attic one; the rooms are all very small, except one, supposed to be the kitchen, and two others, about 11 feet square, and as many high, in which are chimneys. In the middle was a small open court, in which was a well, but whether supplied with water from a fountain in the hill above, or from the rock itself, is not known. It is not long since the last part of the roof came down, and some broken joists still remain sticking out in the sides of some of the rooms. John Garbh is said to be the last who dwelled in it. This John Garbh was one of the predecessors of the present Laird of Raasay, and lived in the times of James VI. of Scotland. He was remarkably stout and athletic, of extraordinary personal strength and valour, and therefore was surnamed *Garbh*, a word which is expressive of lustiness and ableness of body. Many are the stories related regarding his acts of prowess and fortitude, as likewise of several of his countrymen, who are said to have been in general of more than ordinary size and stoutness, but bordering rather on the marvellous, seem not altogether worthy of much credit.

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With regard to the Roman Catholic chapels, no man alive remembers to have seen any of them with a roof on them; the walls are pretty entire. One of them is in *Kirktown* in Raasay, and is surrounded with a plantation of trees. In one of its windows are the bones of a man, amazingly large, preserved by the inhabitants with a kind of religious care, as a monument of the great strength and size of their forefathers, though the present generation is in these respects but little superior to their neighbours. For the same reason they shew, about the middle of the island, near the high road, a large round stone, which they say *John Garbh*, the foresaid chief, and one or two of his people, used to lift on their knees: Such is its weight, that scarcely could the united strength of two of the stoutest men now to be found in the country be able to raise it one inch from the ground. On the right hand, coming into Portree between the towering cliffs above mentioned, and where the fir was some time ago unsuccessfully planted, is a high rock, washed at the foot in some places by the sea; on the top of this rock is a beautiful plain, consisting of near 4 acres of good arable ground; and above it is a steep declivity, almost equally high with the rock below. Near the west end of this plain is the other Roman Catholic chapel formerly mentioned; and there, before Portree was erected into a separate parish, and some time afterwards, was the only burying ground in this end of the barony of Troternish; but now, on account of its retired situation, it is almost entirely given up, a new place of interment being marked out at the church of Portree, about 45 years ago, where the whole people have at length begun to bury their dead. Down through the declivity two oblique paths were made to the plain and chapel; and two others lead from the shore, one at each end of the rock below. In different parts of the plain are springs of excellent water;



and at the bottom of a rock, near the top of the declivity above, is a cave, supposed to be very deep, into which, farther than 12 yards, few have ever thought proper to enter. Near 15 yards within its mouth it becomes darker, and begins to descend; if a stone be thrown down here, it is for some time heard to make a kind of rattling noise, as if it were tumbling down a stone stair, to the sound of which the cave echoes extraordinary loud; but whether, when the sound seems to cease, the stone reaches the bottom, or the cave takes a different direction, cannot be determined. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile from hence, along the shore, down towards the north, are two other caves that merit particular attention. One of them is extremely narrow without; but within becomes very spacious and high; capable of containing with ease at least 500 persons. Below its mouth, up from high water mark to the level of the cave, the hollow rock is faced with a perpendicular wall, of large plain stone, about 12 feet high, having several steps so narrow, that only one man can ascend at a time. Within, the air freely circulates; in the middle is a well; and if they had no fire arms, one man could easily defend the passage against a host of foes: so that it seems to have been designed both by nature and art, as a place of secure retreat, though, if the tradition be true, it proved otherwise to one party that retired to it for safety. For the story goes, that in the troublesome and barbarous times, when the neighbouring districts plundered and destroyed each other, and the weak were always a prey to the strong, many often retreated to this cave as a place of concealment and security. At one time, however, they within, deeming themselves, from their situation, too secure, were negligent in defending the passage. Their enemies got intelligence they were there, and surprising them in the night, filled the mouth of the cave with timber and moist heath, and then setting  
fire



fire to it, allowed none to escape, but all were either smothered to death in their sleep, or miserably perished in the flames. In confirmation of this tradition, a man, not long since dead, found, about 60 years ago, a large brass kettle in a dark corner in the farther end of the cave, and bones of different sizes are still to be seen in it. It abounds in *Stalactites*, which partly hang from the arch above, and partly fall down; many of them having several holes through and through, and are great curiosities. The other cave is not far distant, and is supposed to be several miles deep. It is said of this cave, that, a very long time past, a piper, and four other men, with two mastiffs and lighted candles, went in to it for the purpose of investigation, and to find its depth; but that none of them returned to give any information regarding it. The piper, says the story, was heard at *Loch-fad*, (more than a mile distant), playing a tune, purporting, that the candles went out, his companions were lost, and himself never returned. This is not the only cave in Sky, concerning which such stories are told; but with what degree of credit they should be received, every man may judge for himself. Among the number of natural curiosities may justly be reckoned the cascade above mentioned. The stream from *Loch-leitban*, which, in that part, is the boundary between the east side of Snizort and this parish, running over a very high precipice, as already observed, and breaking, in white foam, on the top of another rock below, forms a fall of water beautiful and magnificent in the extreme. Within the cascade the rock is gradually hollowed, almost from the top, into a wide space, where a great number of men might, with ease, sit round a table, without being in the least incommoded by the water falling without. To this place, till of late, an easy path led through the declivity on each side, but now such quantities of loose earth and gravel fall from



from above, that it is rather of difficult access, more particularly on the south side.

*Birds, and other Sea and Land Animals.*—Here are no wild or domestic animals which are not common to the neighbouring parishes. The wild birds of all sorts most common in the country are, Solan geese, gulls, cormorants, cranes, wild geese, and wild duck; eagles, crows, ravens, rooks, cuckoos, rails, woodcocks, moor-fowl, partridges, plover, wild pigeons, and blackbirds, owls, hawks, snipes, and a variety of small birds. In mild seasons, the cuckoo and rail appear in the latter end of April; the former disappears always before the end of June; the latter sometimes not till September. The woodcock comes first in October, and frequently remains till March. The tame sorts of fowl are geese, ducks, turkies, cocks, pullets, and tame pigeons. Of quadrupeds, there are black cattle, horses, sheep, goats, dogs, cats, rats, and mice. The total number of black cattle, from one year old and upwards, is 1954; of horses, 362; of sheep, 1828; of goats, 156. There are likewise a few red deer; and the fox usually makes havoc among the sheep. There is no fox-hunter in this barony; but there is a certain sum collected yearly with the rents, for fox-money, which, at the year's end, is distributed among all that may be active to destroy that hurtful animal, in proportion to the number they individually kill. Two species of serpents are to be found in the hills of this country, whose bite, though not fatal, is very venomous, attended with much pain and great swelling, and often confines the patient more than six weeks to the house, which probably would not be the case, if medical assistance were timeously called for. Some of them are met with above 24 inches long. The one has yellow specks; the other black, whose bite is the most venomous, and, unless properly



properly managed at first, is very dangerous. The head of the serpent that inflicts the wound, mixed with certain herbs, and applied to the parts that are most affected, is reckoned good to carry off the poison, and abate the swelling. There have been instances of cattle wounded by them in the tongue or lips that never recovered. Of amphibious animals, seals and otters are frequent here; the value of whose skins, as well as of the oil made of the fat of the seal, is well known. Whales and cairbans, or sun-fish, come in sometimes to the Sounds after their prey, but are rarely pursued with any success. The fishes commonly caught on the coast are herrings, ling, cod, skate, haddock, mackerel, lythe, syc, and dog-fish; this last is of little or no use for food, unless among the poorer sort of people, but its liver is of value on account of the excellent oil which is made of it. The average price of ling at home is L. 13, 13 s. per ton; when sold, one by one, if fresh, the price is from 3 d. to 5 d.; if cured, from 5 d. to 7 d. The barrel of herrings seldom sells under 19 s. which is owing to the great difficulty of procuring salt, even sometimes at any price; and the same cause very often hinders many from fishing more than is sufficient for their own use. The obvious method of remedying this, and which would be attended with infinite advantage to the Highlands and islands, is so well known, and has been already so often fully and ably treated of by others, that to enlarge upon it here would be superfluous. *Syes* under one year old are called *cuddies*, and are caught, in great quantities in the latter end of harvest, throughout the winter, and beginning of spring. There are two ways of fishing the *cuddie*; the one is by means of a rod, from the top of which, suspended by a line consisting of half a dozen hairs or threads in thickness, hangs a small hook, on which bait being artfully fixed, it is let down into the sea; in that manner an expert fisher catches several hundreds in an evening,



evening. The best and most expeditious way of catching the *cuddie*, when it is in greater plenty on the coast, is with a sort of creel, called *jabb*. The *jabb* commonly consists of three or four strong rods, from 8 to 10 feet long, laid across each other in the middle, and gently bent upwards, till they are fixed at the ends to a large hoop, from four to six feet diameter, which forms its mouth: On the inside it is all lined with a narrow net, made for the purpose to retain the fish and to let out the water, tightly tied to its ribs and mouth; and it has a long handle reaching its bottom, where the rods cross one another, and to which, and to the mouth, it is well fastened with a strong cord. This instrument the fisher, standing on a rock, presses down sideways into the sea, till the lower part of it reaches the bottom, the mouth being nearly right above; then himself, or an assistant, throwing out the bait in small bits over it, he holds it firm in that position till it be all covered with *cuddies*, attracted by the bait, when he raises it up gently, and often brings in many hundreds at a time. The summer is the best season for the larger *fy*, and the most common method for fishing it when is this: A little before sunset several persons go out in a boat; two, three, or four of whom sit in its stern, each having a fishing-rod or two, furnished with fine white or gray lines, and flies made of white feathers, or hair on their hooks, which they hold out as far as they can after the boat, while two more are rowing it forwards; in this manner, till it becomes dark, they continue going backwards and forwards among the fish, which always pursuing the fly, and endeavouring to swallow it, fix on the hooks in such quick succession, as keep the fishers often constantly busy in taking them in. Every farm on the coast, of which there are 34 in this parish, has a boat or two, and sometimes the far greater number of these are out in search the of *fy* in the same evening.

Population,



*Population, &c.*—About 15 years ago, when the minister personally took the last list of them, the number of examinable persons in this parish were 1248, of which 930 were in Portree, and 318 in Raafay. Since that time the increase has been considerable: After the exactest inquiry, the whole number of souls appears to be 1980. There being no parish register, the births and deaths cannot be well ascertained; and as to marriages, they may be reckoned at an average 10 every year. Of persons above 90 years old, there are 2; between 70 and 90, 22. The number of weavers in the parish is four; of weaveresses, 12. There are 2 blacksmiths, 5 carpenters, 8 tailors, and 3 shoe or brog-makers; but the generality of the people make their own brogs. There may be reckoned six petty merchants, besides the innkeeper of Portree, with whom it has been always customary to keep a large assortment of hardwares, grocery goods, and sundry other things necessary for the use of the country.

Although in the course of the seven last years, several vessels went from Sky to America with emigrants, very few left this parish. The subdivision of lands, (a method generally prevailing), at the same time that it makes the people poorer, on account of their little progress in agricultural improvements, evidently helps to increase the population; and the preservation of many lives is owing to the practice of inoculating that now universally prevails.

*Agriculture.*—Portree, like the far greatest part of this island, is much less adapted by nature for agriculture than for pasture, and seldom, unless in very good years, supplies itself with a sufficiency of provisions. Yet, though the soil is not very fertile or rich, it might with proper management be made to produce more plentiful crops. But the general run of farmers are so prejudiced in favour of old customs,  
and



and indeed not much inclined to industry, that they will not easily be prevailed on to change them for the better; especially if the alteration or amendment proposed be attended with expence. Therefore, with respect to improvements in agriculture, they are still much in the same state as they were 20 or 30 years ago. Ploughs, on a new and improved model, that in comparison to the advantages derived from them, might be had at a moderate expence, have lately been introduced into several districts around, where their good effects are manifest, in improving the crops and diminishing the labour of man and beast; but the Laird of Raasay only, and one other gentleman in this parish, have yet used them. The *cascroim*, a crooked kind of spade, which being already well known, requires no description here, is almost the only instrument for labouring the ground used among the ordinary class of tenants. Where the soil is very wet, or the ground rugged and steep, no agricultural tool can be used with greater propriety and advantage than the *cascroim*; but, notwithstanding, it employs, for the greatest part of the spring, at least 2-5ths more labourers than would be necessary, if ploughs were used where the nature of the ground would admit. Let it be hoped then, that this tiresome instrument of vast unnecessary toil and labour, will be soon laid aside, except in those places where the plough can be of no service. Many hands would thereby be gained for improvements, and other useful employments, to promote the public welfare, and the state of agriculture would be greatly meliorated. The most effectual way for obtaining this desirable end, it is supposed, would be to distribute the farms capable of being ploughed, into more equal and larger portions than at present; for by this means, the mode now in practice of dividing lands into small lots, in different proportions, would be stopt; and every farmer, having always the same field to manage, would naturally be more careful and industrious



industrious to cultivate it to the best advantage. In few or no places is the tillage continued above three years in one and the same place; and to produce a tolerable good crop the ground must be manured some one of these years; which is done the first, second, or third, according to the nature of the soil; before it is again tilled it lies fallow 3 or 4 years, and sometimes longer. The principal manure used is the dung of housed cattle, mixed with straw, and sometimes with mud; and sea-weeds, cast in great quantities in some places, in the winter and spring, on the shore, and which, of a certain kind called *leathagan*, or tangle, that is very rarely manufactured into kelp, the people themselves cut during the spring tides, and carry to land in their boats. The former is preserved in large heaps till the time of laying it on the ground arrives, and is chiefly used for oats; the latter for barley and potatoes. Sowing time usually commences about the 20th of March, and harvest seldom before the middle of September. Except a little barley, small oats may be said to be the only crop produced, and potatoes the only serviceable root. Of this last, there are vast quantities grown annually, which, with herring and other fish, are the chief food of the bulk of the inhabitants for more than half the year.

*Prices, Wages, &c.*—Here, and in every other part of the country, the prices of provisions were far lower about 30 and 40 years ago than at present. The old people say, that in their time the boll of meal sold for 6 merks Scots; the double stone of butter and cheese, iron weight, for 6 s. 6 d. and other necessaries in proportion. But these matters have since undergone a vast change; every article has been increasing in value, and the difference of prices is now sensibly felt. Except in the parish of Kilmuir, and the nearest part to it of Snizort, little or no meal, the produce



of the country, is at present any where sold ; and there the common price in spring is 1 s. *per* peck. Some sell their butter and cheese at 17 s. the double stone, and none under 14 s. Cattle that formerly fetched only from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2, 10 s. have since sold for from L. 3 to L. 4, 10 s. the price of sheep and weathers now varies from 4 s. to 6 s. and of horses from L. 2, 10 s. to 6 guineas. This difference of prices may be accounted for from the increase of population, and introduction of paper currency into the country ; the latter of which, occasioning the circulation of money in greater plenty, helped to diminish its value.

Some servants shoes just now cost their masters nearly as much as their wages 20 or 30 years ago amounted to. The common wages for men-servants is from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3, 10 s. and of overseers from L. 3 to 5 guineas, besides their shoes and maintenance, and sometimes the grass of a cow, and tillage of a little lands ; when they have grass, or any tillage, their other wages is something less. A woman-servant gets from 12 s. to 20 s. with shoes ; housekeepers more ; but this statement regards only the gentlemen tacksmen, of whom there are but five in the parish. The other tenants generally get theirs at an easier rate, the reason of which is, perhaps, that they eat at the same table with themselves, and seldom work but when their masters partake of the labour. The increase in servants wages is in a great measure owing to many of the young people, particularly the men, going out the beginning of every year to the low countries for work, from which they do not begin to return till the latter end of October ; also, since the manufacturing of kelp became an object of importance, great numbers prefer it, though troublesome, to any other work, because in it they can earn from 1 s. 6 d. to 3 s. *per* week, according to their labour. In other instances labourers are seldom hired for the week or day ;  
some



some farmers, indeed, have cottars, the half of whose weekly work they have, and sometimes more or less, for a little grass, and what ground they can labour the rest of their time. The quantity of kelp made annually in the parish is little more than 35 tons; for the three last years the value of kelp was very low, few getting L. 4, 10 s. and many not above L. 3; this year, however, it promises much better.

*Church, Poor, School, &c.*—The Protestant religion, according to the established form of the Church of Scotland, is the only religion professed. There are four places of worship, but only one church, which was built a few years after the erection of the parish in the year 1726; it is slated, but rather small, and indifferently finished within. The heritors are two, Lord Macdonald, and Mr Macleod of Raasay, the latter of whom generally resides in the parish. The stipend is not quite 1000 merks Scots, and the glebe may be worth L. 6 a-year. There is no manse. The Crown is patron. Mr Hugh Macdonald, the present incumbent's predecessor, was first minister of the parish. Mr John Nicolson, the present minister, is a bachelor, in the 88th year of his age, and 39th of his ministry; a man of primitive manners and exemplary life; sincere, benevolent, and charitable, of untainted rectitude and uprightness, and of such indefatigable perseverance in the discharge of his pastoral office, that being appointed to preach in Kirktown in Raasay once every month, and once a quarter in another part of that island, of no easy access, he has not been absent above four times on the ordinary days, during the whole course of his ministry, till the beginning of spring last, when he got a fall that dislocated his shoulder, and confined him to the house during the rest of the season. Till that unfortunate accident he never was troubled with any sort  
of



of indisposition, and what is rather singular, never travelled on horse-back for one mile in all his life. As may be supposed, he is now extremely weak, and can scarcely walk to the next place of worship; an assistant, therefore, or missionary, between Raasay and the farther end of the parish, is much required, and greatly wished for by the people. Before Mr Nicolson's time there was no permanent poor's fund; now there is L. 140. For many years after his settlement, the poor were less numerous, and the Sunday collections greater than at present; these circumstances enabled the kirk-session to pursue with success a plan formed by the minister, of laying aside annually on interest the fines of delinquents, and as much of the Sunday contributions as possibly could be spared, for the purpose of making up a standing fund. By that prudent œconomy they saved the above mentioned sum; the interest of which, with fines and Sunday contributions, make the present annual provision for the relief of the more indigent poor in this part of the parish. In Raasay they have a L. 20 legacy, the amount of which, the interest, and the Sunday collections in the island, and fines, if any, is distributed every year among their own poor. The number of poor on the list in Raasay is 15; in this part of the parish 46. Besides these, there are several more very needy, though not on the list. Many of the poor have some friend or relation, with whom they, for the most part, live, and by whose help they are supported the greatest part of the year.

About 40 years ago, the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty for the improvement of the Highlands and Islands, granted L. 25 *per annum* to a schoolmaster and catechist in this barony, who, by their terms, before his admission to the school, was to be examined at Edinburgh by the Committee, and found knowing in matters that regard religion, and sufficiently qualified to teach Greek, Latin, arithmeti c,



arithmetic, writing, and reading. Not long afterwards, the late Sir James Macdonald, who died at Rome in 1766, much esteemed and lamented, observing the central situation of Portree, fixed on it for the seat of the school, and ordered a large and commodious school-house to be built. But of the L. 25 granted by the Committee, five were withdrawn several years ago, to make up a salary for a missionary appointed on the east side of Kilmuir; which mission the funds of the Committee were not able to continue long, and therefore there now is none, but needed. To the school of Portree numbers come from all parts of the country. It is generally very full every winter and spring; and the number of scholars in summer is seldom less than 30. It has often, from time to time, sent many students to the University, who afterwards, in different capacities served, and still serve their country, with honour and credit. At present, there are three young men ready for College.

*Advantages, &c.*—Were it turned to the use that nature itself points out, Portree enjoys one great advantage, which few or no places can boast of, and that is its noble and excellent port, called from its excellence *Oen Acerfaid*, or the Harbour. An inlet of the sea, across whose mouth lies Raasay, spreading itself into an oblong, well sheltered on all sides from every wind, forms a haven safe and commodious as can be conceived. On the west side of this oblong is a steep beech, nearly of a semicircular form, on whose sides rise two high rocks, and all together form a beautiful basin of water, on which the most violent storms are never seen to raise a wave. Along the beech, close by the edge of the sea, between the two forementioned rocks, lies a green field, about 60 feet broad; and right up from that field is a low and easy ascent, from the top of which a large plain opens to the view. Beyond this plain, towards  
the



the N. W. commences a wide-extended moss, consisting at least of 1200 square acres, in many places 12 feet deep, and affording excellent peat. On all the hills around, too, is plenty of good peats, and the best pasture; the best arable, and best improveable lands in the parish lie round about the harbour. Thus far then Portree appears to be the most eligible situation for founding a village that can be devised; and farther, in other requisites and conveniencies, it is nothing behind. Situated in the very centre of Sky, and it may be said of all this part of the Highlands and Islands, none of the lochs or bays on these coasts most famous for the herring-fishing, are far from it, and many are very near. In the sounds without are good banks for the ling and cod fishing, and all the surrounding seas abound in various sorts of other fish. On the beech, because of its steepness, and the great abundance of good stone in the rocks above, a breast work or quay might be built at a comparatively small expence. On the other side of the harbour are very promising appearances of coals; and a little beyond, near its mouth, as likewise in the island of Raafay, are inexhaustible quarries of different sorts of fine free-stone\*; and hard by, at Sconcer, is abundance of limestone. Quite at hand are two small rivers that never dry up, and several fountains of good and wholesome water; so that in all points of view Portree has every advantage and convenience requisite for the building of a village; and therefore there can be no doubt, but were it once begun, and suitable encouragements given, it would soon be in a very flourishing condition. Indeed, such is its inviting situation that there are, at present, no less than 30 families about the place without lands; and who, for the most part, have no

2                      other

\* It is from Raafay that the neighbouring countries are supplied with millstones.



other means of subsistence but by fishing, ferrying to Loch-Carron, Cishorn Strath, and other places, going on errands and expresses, and other occasional employments. There is a very good harbour in Ronay, but no vessels put in there, unless forced by the weather or other accidents. The conveniency of the school is a great advantage; and it is also a considerable advantage, that from Sconcer to Acerfaid, and thence down to Snizort, is the best piece of made road in all Sky. Here, too, the latter end of every May and July, is held a well known fair, to which all Sky, except the districts of Strath, Heat, some from Uist and Harriish, bring their cattle. The fair commonly continues from Wednesday till the following Saturday; and while, during that time, the cattle of others, some of them after a long driving through moors and bad roads, are standing on the moor, these in the neighbourhood of Portree are easily sent to graze every night, and brought back again next morning, by which means they look much fuller and better. But with respect to the farms immediately near the market-place, this manifest advantage is perhaps often more than balanced by the damage which their graze, and sometimes their corn suffers. The numbers that, on these occasions, flock from all parts to Portree, are immense; and though there is a large, commodious, and well kept inn at Acerfaid, many, even of the best, are often put to their shifts for lodgings. Five miles south from Acerfaid, at the meeting of the three principal lines of road in Sky, is the public house and post-office of Sconcer, from which, by means of two runners, and the post from Inverness to Dunvegan, all the letters of Strath, Heat, Troternish, and Mingnish are distributed.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The language generally spoke is the Gaelic, but much corrupted with a mixture of English



English words, which the common people, ambitious to be thought to understand something of that language, are fond of using on every occasion. Most names of places are from the Danish, some from the Gaelic, of which instances have been already given; and further, *Aird-du*, or Black Promontory, from *du*, black, and *aird*, a promontory; *Bail-mainib*, or Middle Town, from *bail*, a town, and *mainib*, middling, or in the middle. Of those of Danish origin, *Maanib*, and *Raasay*; the former from *Nisb* or *Nes*, which plainly from the situation of those places whose names have that termination, signifies a point or cape; the latter from *Ai* or *Ay*, an island. The first parts of the names, the signification of which is not now well understood, are only particles or adjectives, expressive of some particular circumstance, property, or quality of the places. The inhabitants are as humanely and generously disposed as any of their neighbours. The gentlemen tacksmen, or first class of farmers in Sky, do in general enjoy the benefits of a liberal and polite education, and these inestimable advantages they are willing to bestow on their children. The common people are naturally endowed with a strength of mind and sprightliness of disposition that greatly distinguish them from others of the same rank and condition. Their inquisitive turn, and fondness for news, frequently induce them to address all they see for information; and their questions, and shrewd remarks, are often very surprising. This curiosity is no where more conspicuous than in Portree, and perhaps there are few places that afford more frequent opportunities of gratifying it. A sort of coarse woollen cloth called *cloa*, or *caddoes*, the manufacture of their wives, made into short jackets and trousers, is the common dress of the men. The philibeg is rarely wore, except in summer and on Sundays, on which days, and some other occasions, those in better circumstances, appear in tartans, a bonnet, and short hose,  
and



and some in a hat, short coat, waistcoat, and breeches of Scotch or English manufacture. The women are in general very cleanly, and so excessively fond of dress, that many maid-servants are often known to lay out their whole wages that way. The men in general are middle sized; there are at present in this parish 5 men about 6 feet high, and none exceed that height. The height of the women is from 5 feet 2 inches to 5 feet 6½; they are in general handsome and well complexioned. Some spirited young men are fond of the military profession: but here, as likewise in the other parts of the country, the generality seem to have lost that martial disposition, which was so characteristic of their fathers. When any is enlisted for the service, his relations are, for some time, inconsolable; and, in particular, the mothers, sisters, and wives, would rather have their respective relatives to pass the most miserable and wretched life with themselves at home, than see them go into the army. If go they will, it would not give them near the concern were it along with their chief, his connections or dependents, with whom they are acquainted; and who, they are impressed with the idea, have a greater right to them, and would be more careful and tender of them. However, the different recruiting parties through the country this year have been pretty successful. The men of Raasay are excellent fishers and excellent seamen; to their insular situation, perhaps, abounding in a variety of fish, this dexterity may in a great measure be attributed; they are more expert in fishing, and appear to be fonder of a seafaring life than most of their neighbours. During the spring, and greatest part of summer, numbers of them are employed in the ling and cod fishing, and then many of them engage on board the herring busses, where they commonly remain till the fishing season is over, when they return home with their earnings,



well clad, and more experienced mariners. Were the encouragements to fishing greater, which might be effected by the removal of those difficulties and obstacles, which at present stand in the way of that useful and beneficial branch of business, in consequence of the rigour of the salt laws, much good and great profit would thereby accrue not only to this parish, but to the whole country around\*; nor need it be observed, that were a village founded at Portree, it would be attended with many important benefits; the foregoing indulgence would establish it at once, if a plenary indulgence could not be granted.

## NUM-

\* It would insure to the inhabitants a certain provision to their families for the year, and prevent a vast consumption of meal imported into the country, if a report was annually given in of the number of the small class of tenants, to whom 2 barrels of salt might be distributed upon oath, for the purpose of curing the relative quantity of herrings to be eat with their potatoes; even one barrel would totally change the face of affairs, where subsistence is so scanty, and population so overbearing. This trifling indulgence would contribute to the necessities of many thousands. A sworn rental, containing each name, might be annually produced at a proper season; it would be impossible that salt distributed in such small proportions within the respective districts, could ever be misused, or employed so beneficially to the possessor as in securing his subsistence; an experiment might be made for one or more years, and prosecuted or condemned according to the salt officer's report.



NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF ASSINT,

(COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND, SYNOD OF SUTHERLAND  
AND CAITHNESS, PRESBYTERY OF DORNOCH.)

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM MACKENZIE, Minister\*.*

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*Origin of the Name, and general Description, &c.*

**A**SSINT is a Gaelic compound †, descriptive of the superficies of the whole parish; its wide extent consisting of lofty mountains, high hills, stupendous rocks, threatening

\* The writer of this paper informs once for all, that he is not such an adept in the Gaelic language, as to use Irish orthography; therefore, when Gaelic words must necessarily be mentioned, that mode is all along adopted, wherein there are few, if any, quiescent letters. See Mr Macpherson's learned dissertation, prefixed to the poem of Temora.

† As *Agus Int*, contracted *As-Sint*, i. e. in plain English, "In and out," which evidently refers to both convex and concave surfaces, caused by lofty mountains, &c. In opposition to the etymology presently given, there is a vague tradition bandied, which states, "That two brothers,  
" Unt



threatening precipices, and numberless objects of the like kind, but by far of much less magnitude. Along the sides, and stretched out from the base of these grand appearances, are extensive tracts of heath and moss. Such parts of these tracts as are in some degree elevated, afford safe pasturing ground for yell cattle. Such as are low, overgrown with soft and deep moss, quagmires here and there interspersed, prove often fatal to quadrupeds of every kind; beneath all these mountains, tracts of heath and deep moss, are narrow glens, vallies, and small plains, beautified with little natural mounts, ridges, and hollows; all these are wholly green, affording plentiful pasture, during summer and harvest, for milk cows, some goat, and sheep. By the close of harvest, or beginning of November, cattle are sent to winterings\*, where they continue till the beginning of February or thereby, at which time they are taken thence, housed, and fed; the milk cows, in preference to all, are pastured through the day, if possible, in the moors, or, if prevented by one or more bad days, are supported sparingly within doors. As to the lower part of this parish, called in Gaelic *Fa-Un-Affint*, the surface is much the same; it has its hills, &c. but

"Unt and Af-Unt, (*i. e.* freely translated), *the man of peace*, and *the man of discord*; that they, in days of old, fought for the mastery of Affint; that Unt was slain, of consequence the conqueror, Af-Unt, gave his name to the parish." And further, "That imaginary spots, where the scene took place, was at Ry-an-Unt, a small plain on the farm of Little Affint, presently possessed by Lieutenant John Scobie." But the writer of this narrative fully convinced that Gaelic original names are descriptive of what is most striking, or remarkably observable, has ventured what is set forth, as above, rather than mere fable.

\* Certain grazings preserved during the whole three harvest months, to which the cattle are sent, and continue there for the winter quarters without being housed.



but perfectly diminutive when compared with those of the height of Affint. The numerous inhabitants here on their small particular division of a town or farm, practise much the same method with those on the height in rearing cattle, which is the principal staple of the whole parish, and the only one of the height of Affint. But the inhabitants of Fan-Affint, or Lower Affint, have the additional advantage of fishing in the surrounding offing, bays, seas, and ocean, when they please, and when the weather will permit them. But of these bays, &c. in their proper place.

The particular tract of the parish called Me-in-Affint, *i. e.* the middle of Affint, is a perfect wild, covered with heath, moss, heathery hills, and rocks of small size, and fresh water lochs, which are numerous. This tract consists of the outskirts of all the farms on the whole coast of the parish, and is used mostly in common, and as temporary winterings, but not safe.

*Situation.*—This parish is situated on the W. N. W. coast of Scotland, within the county of Sutherland, the presbytery of Dornoch, Synod of Sutherland and Caithness. The synodical annual meeting is held alternately at Dornoch and Thurso; the latter a town in the county of Caithness; the former, the only Royal Burgh in that of Sutherland. The distance betwixt Thurso and Dornoch is 43 computed miles; thence to Affint 30 miles like measure, at least. Three rivers, and several considerable rivulets, intersect the road betwixt Affint and Dornoch; therefore, when the weather turns out rainy, and continues for but 24 hours, or thereby, the very rivulets, and especially the rivers, are so many tremendous torrents, not to be forded, and when rashly attempted, the consequence seldom fails to prove fatal; along these 30 miles, there is not one bridge, nor but one or two small boats, of the shape or figure of salmon cobbles,



cobles, in which a stranger would think himself not safe, far less would he think of having his horse waded in them, though both are often done by the adventurous natives. The road from Affint to Dornoch, making only allowance for the preceding hazardous inconveniencies, is in a tolerable degree opened up, excepting five miles in Finevin, the property of the late active and gallant Sir John Ross of Balnagown, whom the narrator has often heard say, that he would soon drive his carriage to Kan-loch-elfh, which could be easily effected, there being no bog nor mire in the tract of these few miles, only stones of such bulk as might be taken up by any ordinary man, and removed to a distance; the bottom is gravel. Sir Charles Ross, son and successor to Sir John, would have only to say, "Let these five miles be opened for a road;" and it would readily be done.

*Boundaries.*—Affint, situated as above, and lying on the W. N. W. coast of Scotland, is thus bounded; on the N. it is divided from the parish of Edrachilish, by a great arm of the sea, called Kilis\*, of considerable breadth, as it enters from the ocean, probably more than two, if not three leagues; it indents, running betwixt both parishes with little variation, in a direction from W. to E. If we reckon from the point, or land-end of Rowstore of Affint, which projects into the ocean considerably more than the opposite northern coast of Edrachilish, the Kilis may be found in length † six leagues at least, as it terminates at the  
bafes

\* Kilis, a Gaelic noun, signifying the separation of one place from another by sea or water.

† The narrator could not get the perusal of the general map of Affint, though he wrote the factor in 1792. It was locked up where there was no access to it; therefore all calculations or reckonings condescended on are but the narrator's best conjectures.



bases of Edrachilish and Affint, lofty mountains. At one league's distance from the inland end of the Kilis, there is a particular part of it, called Kilis-cu-ig\*, across which a stone may be slung; there the natives swim their hardy breed of cattle, from either side to the other, as often as their business requires. Advancing eastward a very short distance from Kilis-cu-ig, the Kilis expands to a considerable extent, and at length terminates in two lochs, viz. Loch-glen-du of Edrachilish and Lockunapool of this parish. The herring-busses repair yearly to these, and the other lochs of the Kilis, and seldom have cause to repent, as they fall in with fish, are well sheltered on one or other side of the Kilis, and have good anchoring ground.

Lochunapool above mentioned, ends at Glen-cul of Edrachilish, the only farm in this quarter of the county belonging to the Honourable family of Reay, and in contact with Affint. The boundary by land, through hills, moors, &c. is somewhat differently represented. The possessors of Glen-cul say, that their march with this parish runs along the long-extended ridge of Bin-an-nu-i; on the other part, the tenants of Unapool and others in this parish assert, that the march lies at a short distance without the Ballach (*i. e.* the flap or pass) of that hill, whence it directs its course by Loch-poul-aulay †; from that lake, in an east direction, by Loch-an-tlugid ‡ to Cloich-an-tnive §, where the march of Glencul-Edrachilish with this parish ceases. The inconsiderable tract of moor above referred to, very seldom or never is a cause of difference among the people; they  
live

\* *i. e.* The Narrow Kyle.

† A loch where one of the name of Aulay perished.

‡ Means a capacious loch; receives much water from the north side of Bin-an-nu-i.

§ A huge stone, not far from winding craggy rocks.



live in peace, and exchange mutual good offices; their yelt cattle graze in common only for about three months in the year, on those very high and bleak summits. Quitting marches with Edrachilish as above, this parish, at the very same Cloich-an-tnive, begins to bound with the most remote Highland grazings \*, now of the parish of Creech, and since 1732 a property of the Balnagown family. From Cloich-an-tnive the present runs thus: By the heights of Lead-ri-voch; by Tu-on; by Maul-an-fear-loch; the heights of Lead-na-bea-kach, until you arrive at the Ca (*i. e.* the flap or pass) of that hill; the pass lies betwixt Be-a-kich and Gone-vaul-hill, the latter still belongs to this parish; the march is continued by a burn, which descends from the pass betwixt these two very high hills last mentioned; at the distance of a mile from its source, it forms a loch called Du-loch more †, the stream issuing from it at the distance of about half a mile, falls along a precipice; here the march forms a curve to Fowran-balach-tra-li-gal ‡; this spring is situated on the verge of the same precipice, southward of the above stream; its pure rivulet glides along a similar course, both to Stra-an-an, now

as

\* These grazings are, Kor-a-vad-ag-beg, Kor-a-vad-ag-more, Beakach-hill and Stra-an-an. Contests had arisen betwixt the herds of the Laird of Affint and those of Balnagown. The Sheriff-depute of the Right Honourable the Earl of Sutherland, who then, as of old, held heritable jurisdiction of the whole county, necessarily interfered; and thinking, that by the situation of these places, they should be attached to Balnagown's neighbouring property, they were accordingly made over, by which Affint lost what of old was reckoned grazing belonging to it.

† The Big-black-loch.

‡ *i. e.* A spring or well at the outer entry, from Affint, of Ballach-tra-li-gal.



as already observed, the property of Balnagown. From the above spring or well, the march runs to the hill of Breb-ag-tar-Ikin \*; from thence by the ridges of a great range of hills, until you arrive at Ballach Ki-nich †, opposite to which lies Kaun-loch-alsb, of old appertaining to Balnagown. For the sake of perspicuity it is to be remembered, that the great track of shore-moor, *Uc.* from the point of Row-store to the aforementioned Cana-beakach fronts the north; from said Ca, or pass, to Ballach Ki-nich, looks to the east; thence, in a straight line by the south-east side of Lochan-skerich ‡, to the spring, from which the burn of Auldan-na-kal-gach § runs, then along its channel until it enters Loch-bolan; from the south end of which, or, as others say, from that part of its western side directly opposite to Auldan-na-kal-gach, the march holds a straight course to ¶ Fe-na-hard-elig; from the west side of Loch-borlan this parish marches with that of Kincardine; from Te-nahard-elig \*\* to the top of Maul-na-nim-rachin: thence to Cloich-glas-maul-a-chirn ††, at which place the

\* Tar-Ikin signifies, that Breb-ag hill lies across the range of hills to the south of it.

† Means the pass or pass of Kenneth.

‡ A little loch, having in it, or adjacent to it, small sharp-pointed rocks.

§ Means the burn of deceit or hypocrisy.

¶ A track of soft boggy moor, to which, in times of old, the natives gathered deer, and when entangled, they killed them.

\*\* Signifies a little hill having several tracks of plain moor, resembling fields, adjacent to it.

†† Means a hill, having a large gray stone on top of it. *Kinin* is a Gaelic word, expressing the fruit of the redin tree, which of old grew on this maul or hill. There is a burn, running from the south side of this hill;



the Balnagown Highlands, and also the parish of Kincardin, cease to march with this parish; and there also Affint begins to run marches with the barony of Coigach, parish of Lochbroom, in this manner: From said Cloich-glas-maul-a-kiirn, to the highest eminence of Lead-na-luib-a-croi\*. But we must not pass on without observing, that from Ballach Ke-nich, especially from the source of Auldan-na-kal-gach, the march, with little variation, holds thence a course from S. E. by S.W. to the above Lead-na-luib-a-croi; from this place the march sets off in a west direction to the highest part of Maul-an-our †; from that summit by the south side of Maul-a-vourich ‡, in the same direction to the top of the hill, called Ki-uch ||; thence all along as ridges of hills and water divide, by the highest part of Maul-cor-a-loch-an, in a straight line to Gla-ik-na-crev-sheulich §, which is at some considerable distance to the south of the farm of Knochán, the highest situation in all this parish. At the above Gla-ik-na-crev-sheulich, a spring originates; at

2

hill; it runs five or six miles before it enters Skell-river, the grazings which lie betwixt it and the march, described from Ballach Ki-nich to Cloich-glas-maul-a-chirn, were taken away by the Thane of Ross from Macleod Laird of Affint, in time of the conflicts of the clans. It is reported by tradition, that one of the Thane's followers, who had a little earth from Balnagown's property in his shoes, declared solemnly, as he stood with the inquest at Auldan-na-kal-gach, that he was then standing on the Thane's undoubted property; then it was that the burn got the name of Auldan-na-kal-gach.

\* Means a gravelly, hard plain,

† A hillock having bad heath.

‡ A hill frequented by deer in rutting season.

|| A pass.

§ A flap in a rock where a wild willow tree grew,



a certain distance from its source it falls into Auld-a-chrokan; this burn, after several windings, discharges itself into a great lake called Loch-me-addy; from the spring of Glai-na-crev-shellich to this last loch, the course of the march is from S. to N. From Loch-me-addy the march assumes a direction from E. to W. in this manner: A great body of water issues from that loch; it forms a channel of no great length; it is contracted to the breadth of an ordinary river, and resigns at last its great stream to another equally large lake called Fane-loch; betwixt these two great lochs there is in the channel above mentioned one ford, it is called U-y-farn\*; it is dangerous, being only incoherent stone and sand heaped together, by strong winds which prevail here the go of harvest, more or less through winter, and especially beginning of spring; some persons, though but seldom, are drowned at U-y-farn. At the distance of 3 miles, towards the shore, a grand cascade commands attention. It goes by the name of The Cascade of Inverkirkag River. The collection of the numberless springs, burns, and lochs from Ballach Kenich, all along the march, to Knochan of Affint, as above mentioned, besides what is superadded from lofty mountains † on both sides the watery march, at this very place all concentrating to the Cascade, force their way over a very great, high, and craggy precipice. The fall exhibits a scene that strikes the beholder with surprise; immediately after the fall an easy declining channel forms; its length to the sea is two miles.

At

\* A ford, near to which alder trees grow.

† These are Su-il-vine. (which means the Mountain of the Eye), in sea charts called, Sugar Loaf, as being of a conical figure, and seen of that shape by mariners at a great distance; it is in this parish. The other great mountain is Ciu-il-more of Coigach; both are opposite on each side of the march.



At about the middle part there is a stem or cruive, having two chests, across to catch salmon, and to prevent their getting up to a great pond below the fall, whence they cannot be taken by reason of great stones, roots of trees, and other obstacles carried yearly there in time of great speats; no fish was ever known to have surmounted the Cascade. This river at last disembogues itself into the ocean, at a very short distance south of Inverkirkag farm house. There, at certain times of every tide during the fishing-season, fishers ply with a yoal, (a little boat), oars, and nets, to catch salmon. The quantity taken throughout the season is said not to exceed one and a half last, though in a favourable year, the fishing may turn out to a few barrels more; however, the salmon, in regard of quality and relish, are allowed not to yield to any in Great Britain, being spawned in a river whose many springs are the purest sources, and also being caught instantly as they come from the ocean.

Leaving Coigach barony (which has no right to fish salmon here) south of Inverkirkag river, to which river the present marches of this parish, with those of Edrachilis, Creech, Kincardine, and Lochbroom parishes, have been all along particularly pointed out, the narrator now proceeds to describe the coast of this parish from the river of Kirk-ag to the point or land-end of Row-store, from which place he began to show the circuitous march of it.

The length of this part of the coast, if the uneven, winding, and in some places, rocky foot road from farm to farm \* be followed, may be found at least to measure 15 miles. The  
course

\* The farms on this track of coast, and in its neighbourhood, are, Inverkirkag, Baddy-na-ban, Knock-nan-nach, Culag, Filin-wintering, Drumsworldland, and Duchlash. These, as situated betwixt Kirk-ag and Inver rivers, are called Ed-ra-ilk farms. They lie S. S. E. of the river of Inver.



course from Kirk-ag river to the point of Row-store, runs from S. S. E. to N. N. W. All this coast is of importance, as the sea abounds with every species of fish, cod, ling, &c. there are likewise a variety of shell fish, viz. oyster, lobster, &c. But the annual resort of herring to this and neighbouring coasts, S. and N. of the parish, (now for several years past), is what affords great advantage, both in respect of living and profit to those residing there, far superior to all the resources which the inhabitants residing on the heights of it can have. By the side of Loch-Inver is the fishing station of Culag, built at the expence of £. 2000 Sterling, by John-Joseph Bacon, Esq; of the Isle of Man, and one Mr Donald Ross partner, for a certain share of that sum. Of late years the lease and buildings have been all transferred to other adventurers. There is a small cruive on the little river of Culag, where perhaps a barrel of salmon may be caught throughout the season; its contiguity to the salmon-fishing of Inver river can be the only reason for the expence of its having a cruive and small chest across.

At Inver river, which has also a cruive and two chests, there may be cured throughout the season two lasts of salmon; a favourable year may produce more, but very seldom, if ever, does it complete three lasts. Inver river, which has its numerous sources \*, &c. from every direction, especially from Goin-vaul-hill, and also from Loch-Ah, near Ledbeg farm, on the height of this parish, it disgorges itself into the large and very safe harbour of Loch-laver, where, when the herring-fishing offers successfully, there may be seen occasionally two, three, or four score,  
and

\* Of these, and the farms lying adjacent on the height, the narrator will afterwards take notice, but he must keep his course in describing the coast.



and sometimes a greater number of ships\*. But, to proceed, along a dangerous wooden bridge to the opposite side of Inver river, in our way to Row-store-point, several farms† and grazings offer to view, interspersed with numberless rocks, stones, and hollows; however, all have the advantage of fishing. Every farm has one, two, or more boats, according to the number of inhabitants fit to be employed. After fishing, the natives draw up their boats on shore, or into small creeks; as after leaving Loch-Inver harbour, there is no safe one until (after doubling the point of Row-store) you enter the chops of Kilis‡; which being effected, a mariner may, as he finds convenient, safely anchor at Cu-il-heu-ig, north side of Dorny-oldney||; or from the point of Store, keeping clear of the island Oldney, he may safely put in at Poul-an-dun-an§, on the north

\* These come from every part of the east and west coast of Scotland, from Stornaway, nine leagues distant from this coast, and seen from it when the day proves clear and serene; a few ships come from the islands of Orkney and Man. All these herring-busses, their numerous crews, boats, and great trains of nets, make no less pleasant than grand appearance. In pursuit of herring, the crews, &c. set out to fish late in the evening, and continue till early next morning. The busses ride at anchor. Such is the method practised.

† Their names are, Baddy-darroch, Inver, Brackloch, Baddy-grinan-wintering, Torbreck-wintering, Achonalvich, Clacktoll, Store, Balla-chladach, Clashmore, Achnakarnan and Dure-land, Culkin-ach-na-kar-nan, close by the point of Row-store.

‡ Kilis was described in general, p. 166; this further description is meant for the more particular information of mariners.

|| Dorny, *i. e.* a narrow space or channel of sea, where it flows and ebbs, and where, at full sea, a vessel can be towed to either side of the harbour.

§ Poul-an-dun-an, called so, as there is there a little mount or dune on the north side of the island, opposite to the anchoring ground.



north fide of that island, not far from the Dorney. The great and long track from Oldney to Unapool, (both these places included) is called by the general name of Slifh-a-chilifh \* ; there are several farms on it †, and safe harbours also. Next to those of Oldney are the following: Loch-Drumbaig, it is sheltered by a range of rocks and little islands (called in Gaelic, *Elan-in-du*, i. e. The Black Islands) at a moderate distance off shore, and almost parallel to it. Vessels anchor betwixt the shore and the islands.

Loch-Nedd is the second best, if not equal to the harbour of Loch-Inver. It is safe, and sheltered from every wind, and in time of the herring-season, there may be as great a number of shipping here as at Loch-Inver.

Ardvare Loch or Harbour. Its entry is narrow; the bottom craggy. If a vessel gets in, which she may safely effect at high tide, she rides safe, and is well sheltered. This harbour is of considerable extent.

Cambus-vic-ker-chir ‡. It is safe and well sheltered, except from N. E. gales. It is situated on the coast of Ardvare farm, not far from the march of Ry-an-traid-wintering. Advancing still more inland by Kilis, the next harbour is,

Poul-a-gha-ren, which affords great safety and shelter. It is situated in that great bosom of Kilis, directly opposite to Auld-a-gha-un, the march betwixt Ry-an-tra-id-wintering,

\* i. e. The thigh, or side of the Kilis.

† The farms are, Clashnessy, Oldeny, Culkin-drumbaig, Drumbaig, Nedd, Glen-lē-ag, Ardvare, Ry-an-tra-id-wintering, and Unapool, which, as formerly observed, co-marches with Glencul Edrachilis parish.

‡ A Gaelic compound; Cambus, or Camus, meaning, A wide indenture of the sea into the land: Vic-ker-chir, Farquhart's son, from whom this harbour took its name, &c.



ing and Unapool. It has the additional shelter of Elan-a-gha-un \*, belonging to Un-a-pool-farm. Poula-ghaun is in sight of the entry to Kilis-cu-ig formerly mentioned. At a very short distance eastward from it is the harbour of Cambus-vic-Hustan. The common people call it Loch-cam-mus-cu-fake. It will contain safely from 12 to 18 herring-busses, and their boats.—Such is the coast, and such are the harbours of Assint.

It is unnecessary here to say any thing particular of the great expansion of Kilis eastward of the last mentioned harbour, nor of the manner it terminates, having been already set forth in p. 167; *et seq.* of this Statistical Account. All this part of the coast, from the point of Row-store, along Slisli-a-chilish, to the march of Unapool with Glencuil Edrachilish parish, is of equal, if not greater value than that track formerly spoken of, from Inver-kirk-ag river to said point of Store, for these reasons, that it has more harbours, and at least equal advantage in fishing.

*ISLANDS on the Coast, and belonging to the Parish of  
ASSINT.*

*Elan-a-gharin.*—This island belongs to the farm of Unapool, where their calves are speaned, and there occasionally one cow may be fattened.

*Elan-an-du*, or Black Islands, and adjacent rocks, form and shelter the harbour of Loch-Drumbaig. These islands are of little value, fit only for speaning a very few lambs or kids. The eagle pays them visits for a repast.

*Maul-elan-an.*

\* Elan-a-gha-un, also a compound, Elan signifying an Island: and Gha un, meaning a Six-month old of the cow-kind. To this island the tenants of Unapool send cattle of that age to be speaned.



*Maul-clan-an.*—These are two islands attached to the farm of Culkin-Drumbaig; they are a little nearer the coast of this parish than that of Edra-chilish; they lie in that broad part of Kilis which runs in a direct line betwixt Culkin-Drumbaig and Loch-bad-ca-ul\*, a fine harbour close by the manse of Edra-chilish. To these islands sometimes old sheep are sent to fatten, or lambs to be speaned. They are of no great extent. They are not to be approached but when a fair and calm day offers, by reason of the billows and broken surges, which violently wash their bold and rocky shore.

*Island Oldney.*—This island, the best on the whole coast, the eastern end of it lies so near the mainland part of Oldney farm, by reason that the breadth of the channel dividing them will not exceed 20 yards; this also is the channel formerly mentioned by the Gaelic name of Dorny-clan-anl-da-ney, having a harbour on each side of it. The length of it will perhaps measure an English mile; the breadth varies much in many places, and where broadest, will probably not exceed a quarter of a mile. Its insular situation makes it valuable, as its pasture and little corn is safe from being trespassed on by neighbouring cattle; besides that it answers in its turn, with other grazings, as part of the milch cow pasture throughout summer. During the harvest months, no bestial is allowed to enter it, being all that time preserved for out-wintering pasture. Cattle are put in there some time in November, (as into all other winterings), are thence gradually taken out to be housed the beginning of spring, as they may appear to need provender. Some cattle are lost yearly as they attempt getting to little plots of grass among high rocks, with which

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the

\* The masters of ships and their sailors call it Loch-bad-well.



the coast of the island abounds. It is allowed that this island is a fifth or sixth part value of the yearly rent of the whole farm of Oldney.

*Cronay Island.*—This is a little flat island, also adjoined to Oldney farm; it lies in that pretty large bosom of sea, which, from the point of Row-store, leads to the anchoring ground of Cul-chu-ig, south side of Dorny-Oldney. It is sheltered on the N. by Island Oldney; on the S. by the high rocks of Clashneffy farm; but the shore of this farm should be kept at a moderate distance by any prudent mariner, as it is shallow. This small island will fatten a half-dozen sheep, or one cow.

*So-ay Island.*—It lies to the S. of Row-store point, towards the entry of Loch-Inver harbour from the offing. A mariner may make his way to that harbour, by keeping his course on either side of it, as he may find most convenient. This island is a pendicle of Inver farm. It is rather flat, though not wholly so. It partly abounds with heather, and sweet grass. It is much longer than broad; the former dimension may be half an English mile, the latter one-third of that length. Lambs and kids are sent there to be speaned, and taken thence in two or three weeks; if no other cattle are sent there immediately thereafter, but the pasture preserved until the beginning of November, in this event it will prove sufficient to out-winter eight or nine year-olds of the cow kind.

*Klett Island.*—This island is situated to the S. of So-ay, at the distance of one mile, or thereby. It is a pendicle of Inver-kirk-ag farm, and somewhat of a round figure. The distance from Inver-kirk-ag to this island, by the shallow bay of Inver-kirk-ag will be one league. It is not to  
be



be approached but of a calm day, and smooth sea. It is but a high rock, considerably above the greatest tide and surge, except in one or two places of difficult access when landing; there, however, lambs and kids are speaned, old sheep fattened, and when no such are in this island, it will over-fatten one cow or bullock of large size \*.

The narrator having all along mentioned in subjoined notes, or in the body of this Statistical Account, the several farms which fell in his way, of a long and wearisome circuit, it would become him now to proceed to the immediate discussion of the more important particulars of this detail; but the mention of these are for a little deferred, until, with equal impartiality, the names at least of the intermediate farms are simply recorded. The design of, which is, That in the event any thing useful, meriting enquiry or inspection, may occur in what remains to be adduced, any person, from whatever quarter, may know where to find and see such objects, without guide or reward to any. Therefore the names of all the farms and inhabited places, not formerly mentioned, will soon follow in course. But to give as clear an idea as possible of the different tracts and directions in which these places are situated and found, the narrator will suppose, that a traveller sets off from Inver-kirk-ag shore for Ledbeg on the height of this parish; in this event he will either keep by the south side of Suilvine, or Suggar-loaf-hill, and find the path disagreeable, abounding with stones, in some parts with rocks; and in case

\* A certain gentleman of this parish had one fed there, which fattened to that degree, that upon the animal being landed thence, he could not move but with the slowest pace, but that being rather too much, he instantly died of suffocation by fatness.



case he would wish to give a call, or shelter himself from rain or storm, there is but one habitable place called Brackloch, (close by the western end of the great fresh water lake called Ca-um-loch \*), a distant pendicle of Ledbeg-farm. Or, again, if the traveller sets out from Tilin-wintering by Ed-ra-vine track †, he will find his way almost equally bad for said Ledbeg, though in part opened up several years-past. Here also is but one habitation, named Clo-ich-a-ry ‡, situated in a contracted gloomy hollow, mostly surrounded with rocks. It lies to the north side of lofty Su-il-vine. This place is also a remote corner of Ledbeg farm, and occupied by a herd of Lieutenant Kenneth Mackenzie, the tackfman. But in preference to both the above tracks, if the traveller sets off by Inver and Brackloch-Inver farms, keeping along the north side of Inver river, he will find his way more comfortable in every respect. One hour's walk or thereby will bring him to Little-Affint ||, and he may

\* Ca-um-loch, *i. e.* the crooked loch. Some years past the Lord Bishop of Derry, now Earl of Bristol, among other parts of the north that his Lordship visited, made an excursion to this parish, and by reason of the grand scene of this loch, its fine islands, beautified with natural trees, birch also, surrounding lofty hills, seen and reflected from the smooth surface of Ca-um-loch, struck his Lordship with such pleasure and novelty, that he caused his French valet draw a perspective view of the whole.

† Ed-ra-vine, means, Betwixt two mountains, *viz.* Sul-vine to the S. and Ga-nisp to the N. of this track. Some have perished here, and several have been in great danger of the like fate in time of winter storms.

‡ A-ry signifies a grazing, having booths for accommodation of milkmaid and herds. Clo-ich, *i. e.* a stone, importing that it abounds with such.

|| Opposite to it, on the south side of Inver river, is the little farm of Poul-a-garvie. On the N. W. of Little Affint, is the farm of Loch bannoch; and to the N. of Loch-bannoch lies Poul-la-kar-kan, a part of Tu-

more.



may walk or ride as he may find convenient. Little Affint is a wintering, and consequently a temporary residence of Lieutenant John Scobie. He generally has a boat at the western end of the beautiful fresh water lake called Loch-Affint. If it can be got, it will serve as a vehicle for seven miles towards the higher farms here; and then the traveller lands near the parochial kirk; but though the boat should not be procured, it makes no great difference; as upon leaving Little Affint, the traveller makes for Tumore, where the road becomes perfectly firm, and continues so, not only to Auld-an-na-kal-gach, the present march, but as far further as the length of Dornoch or Tain. But to proceed and mention all the other farms of this inland intermediate tract; the traveller leaving Tumore \*, has the high hills of Cu-i-nag close by him, to the north; on his right hand is the small winterings of Edra-chalda, at same time the winterings of Upper and Lower Tubegs † offer to full view; they lie along the south side of Loch-Affint, at the base of a group of hills called Bine garve. From Baddy-na-carbad, the small wintering of Edra-chalda, the road

more. Mr Kenneth Scobie, tacksmen of it, of Upper and Lower Achmore, and of Ry-an-traid, Cui-nag-hills are attached to these farms; they are managed by his overseers and servants here. Himself and family reside on the good corn farm of Scoury, Edvachilish parish.

\* Besides this tract or road from Inver to Tumore, there is another from Oldeny to it also, at the distance of a half mile from Tumore, in our way thence for the height, a path or track strikes off this principal road (as we call it) by Ballach-lerag for Slisnachilish, particularly for Glenlerag, Ned, and Ardvarre farms; the two former situated by the chops of Loch-Ned, the latter not far from it.

† Edra-chalda is the name of the farm; Baddy-na-carbad is that of the wintering.



road leads directly cross the little, but occasionally rapid river or burn of Ski-ak, through the farms of Upper and Lower Achmores\*, that of Edra-chalda, cross the small river of Chalda, then through the farm of Culin and Half Camore †; here, about the eastern end of Loch-Affint, are the parochial kirk and manse. The way thence leads cross the river Tralegal, which, at a little distance enters Loch-Affint, then through the farms of Inch-nadaff, Stronchruby, and Laing, cross A-na-ka-un river, by Ry-an-cro-vich farm, thence, advancing a little, there is a path which strikes off for Leadbeg farm-house, but the public road is continued to Auld-an-nakal-gach ‡; the farms from thence westward (in the direction of Cloich-glas-maul-a-chirn, &c. formerly described), and lying within that line of march, are Ledmore, Cromauld, Auld-an-achy, Alpine, and Knock ||. The narrator having now faithfully mentioned every particular farm and inhabited place, the manner they are situated along shore, and how they lie in the inland tracks, he leaves the consideration and decision respecting public roads to the Honourable Commissioners of the county; only adding, that if these roads were begun and finished, bridges built, and regular stages fixed, probably no less curious and useful

\* Upper Tubeg is adjoined to Inishnadaff farm, Lower Tubeg to Stronchouby farm.

† From the principal road a track or path strikes off by Achmore farm-house for Unapool farm, which is the eastern end of Slichachilis.

‡ The other half of Camore is the minister's glebe.

|| The unfortunate person, by whose single evidence (in time of the clan conflicts) the grazings or farms of Auldy-valin, Auld-an-farn, Strath-fel-kach, Knock-kurny, and Glas-wel, with all parts and pendicles, were severed from Affint, is handed down to this very day as having laid violent hands on himself. That limb once of this parish was swept away when the intrepid lairds of Macleod held all this parish.

§ There is a tract on bad road from Knochan to the village of Ula-pool.



ful objects would cast up to view, and be found here, than in the Swiss Cantons, so very particularly described by British travellers.

*Circumference, Length, and Breadth of Affint Parish.*—

Concerning these dimensions a conjecture can only be offered, for reasons formerly assigned; however, if the course of marches described in the preceding pages of this account are followed in their various windings along the coast, through moors and hills, there is no saying but this parish may be found 100 English miles in circumference. Taking the length from Auldan-nakal-gach, or Cromauld, to the point of Row-store, may measure from 20 to 25 like miles. The breadth varies much; but supposing it to be taken from the march of Auld-an-achy, or Knockan, with Coigach, to the lands-end of Loch-Ardvare, in which line only this parish is supposed broadest, it is presumed not to exceed, (or at most found to measure,) 15 miles. It is an easy affair for such as can have recourse to inspect the general plan or map of this parish\*, to inform themselves of the precise dimensions, by their applying a pair of compasses to the scale of that map.

*Number of Acres.*—These must be several thousands. The narrator can offer no particular conjecture of their number, as the surface of the parish abounds so very much with great fresh-water lakes, and numberless lesser ones also; besides rocks, hills, and mountains of every size and dimension, some of which are inaccessible, and others of them

\* That general map, as also particular draughts of every farm, was drawn up by John Home, in time of Lady Sutherland's minority.



them, so in particular places : Therefore, instead of acres, can only be represented,

*The ancient Division of the Lands of the whole Parish.—*

The ancient division of the parish, to this day retained and known by all here, was into davochs of land, which are four : 1<sup>st</sup>, The davoch of Ard-Affint, including the whole tract and farms thereon, from Skiak river all along to the march of Ledmore, at Auld-an-nakal gach, &c. to Knock-an, as particularly mentioned in the preceding pages. This davoch was the only one which suffered considerably by feudal differences and powerful jurisdiction, now happily abrogated since 1748.

2<sup>d</sup> davoch, Ed-ra-isk, extends from Inver-kirk-ag river to that of Inver ; its hill pasture lies towards Su-il-vine and Canisp mountains.

3<sup>d</sup> davoch, Row-store, lies extended along shore from Inver river to Garve-auld of Clashneffy. The pasture for yell-cattle is the out-skirts of all the farms, and called Me-an-Affint, formerly described.

4<sup>th</sup> davoch, Slisli-a-chilish, situated betwixt said Garve-auld of Clashneffy, along the coast of Kilis, to the march of Unapool (as formerly represented) with Glencul of Edra-chilish parish. The hill-pasture of this davoch is in part a division of Me-an-Affint, to the boundary of Glenlerag farm by Loch-nedd. Glenlerag, Ardware, Ry-an-traid, and Unapool, have out skirts, each of their own. For reasons which will appear in the sequel, the subdivisions of these four davochs must not be omitted, for they are still retained and known by the natives ; and by attending to it in its proper place, a pretty exact calculation can be made of all the live stock of every species of cattle in the parish.

*Subdivisions*



*Subdivision of the four Davochs.*—The subdivision of these four davochs is into oxgates of land, every davoch consisting of eight such, making in all 32 oxgates. The practical objects of this subdivision shall be stated under a subsequent topic.

*Surface.*—The surface was represented in the general description given in the beginning of this account, as almost wholly uneven, and rocky, having interjacent little glens, fields, plains and meadows, which, during summer and harvest, abound with rich pasture, at no great distance from the several farms and places of residence, near to which natural grass is yearly cut in August or September for hay, as the season may allow. At the extreme marches with the different neighbouring landed property, the surface abounds mostly with lofty mountains, hills, extensive tracts of heath, having here and there soft moss and quagmires, which often prove fatal to cows and horses.

*Soil.*—Along the whole shore, the soil is of various kinds, stony, gravelly, sandy, mossy, and these for the most part interspersed with rocks and stones, some of greater, others of less magnitude; for which cause almost all the labouring is performed by the crooked and straight *delving* spades, implements of husbandry peculiar to this and other parishes to the N. to the W. and S. W. of Affint. The plough affords considerable aid at the farms of Inver-kirk-ag, Tìlin-wintering, Inver, at Oldney, and Little Affint-wintering. The plough might do so, in more or less degree, throughout the several other farms of these three *davochs* along shore. But the inhabitants, being numerous there, think it easier, and attended with less expence,



to *delve*\* their several divisions of land, than be at the trouble of clearing the ground, or of using horses and ploughs, especially as their immediate subsistence depends on their success in fishing, to which they must pay regular attention: besides, it is found by experience, that there is a much greater increase of corn, from the same quantity of seed sown in *delvings*, than from the like quantity sown in ploughed ground; bear sown in the *straight spade delving* is generally found to yield sixteen in return.

*Soil of Davosch Ard-Affint, or Affint Haight.*—The soil here is, for most part, a rich heavy loam; in some other places it is gravelly. Limestone and moss abound through the whole extent of it. The fields, though few, and not of great extent, are as regularly laid out as the surface will allow; some rocks above, and others below the surface, give embarrassment, and require the attention of the ploughman to avoid them; for which reason there is in time of tilling a man who attends with the aforementioned crooked spade, whose employment it is to *delve* the ground where it is supposed there are concealed rocks and stones, in order to expose them to view, so that neither plough nor harness may receive hurt.

*Cultivation, Manure, and Implements of Husbandry.*—Yearly from the middle of July to the 15th of August, the labourer employs a considerable part of that time in gathering earth, which he forms into an oval or quadrangular figure; above that are laid strata of dung, lime, and whatever else may enrich his dunghills, to which a considerable addition is made by the litter of cattle, housed early in the spring. If that season be favourable, the tillage commences at or about the middle of February. Oats are sown in March and beginning of April.

Fields

\* Dig with the spade.



Fields to be laid down with *heath*, and such as are to be planted with potatoes \*, after having been once ploughed, are thereafter manured, and upon their being tilled a second time, are instantly sown, and harrowed. Sea weed is the principal manure, all along the shore. Some little tracts of moor and barren ground are yearly every where brought into cultivation by potatoe-planting; but the whole arable ground, ploughed and *detred* throughout the whole parish, does not probably bear the proportion of one acre to an hundred, of what is hill pasture, moor and moss. The old Scotch plough is the only one used here; four hardy native horses are yoked to it. The other implements of husbandry are harrows, the crooked and straight delving spades, English spades, some mattocks, *cabbies*, *crook-saddles*, and *creels*. It is with these two last mentioned that the manure is carried on horseback to the field, as neither cart nor waggon are yet used here.

*Seed Time and Harvest.*—Seed time, as above mentioned, if the spring proves favourable, begins early in March, and in that event, the labouring is finished by the close of May, or some days thereafter. If the harvest be a good one, the crop will be secured by the latter end of September; but this happens very seldom, by reason of excessive rains, which, if they come on in March, lengthen the labouring to the 24th of June, and of course very probably the ingathering of the crop is protracted to the end of October

\* When in the 1765 the narrator was admitted to the charge of Affint, there were no potatoes, except a few planted in his predecessor's garden. In the 1766, a half boll for seed was got, small presents were made, the manner how to plant, &c. was shown. At first the natives were indifferent; however, being persuaded to persevere, and finding their great advantage, they have ever since improved in the skill of planting their plots and fields of potatoes.



tober at least, if not, to the middle of November \*. If these rains continue, and change to sleet and frost, which sometimes happens, the whole labour of the year is either lost, or, the crop is rendered unwholesome for man and beast; of consequence sickness prevails among the people, and the loss of cattle is inevitable.

*Climate, Diseases, &c.*—In general, the climate is rainy, as much so at least as in any tract of equal extent on the W. N. W. coast of North Britain. The rain continues not only for hours, but often for days; nay, for weeks, especially if the wind perseveres for so long a time to blow from the west; if from that quarter it veers to the south, its continuance there will not be long, but returning, recommences its unwelcome showers. When the wind shifts from W. to N. in this event it rains gently for two or three days; thereafter the atmosphere clearing up, the weather becomes dry and chilly, and continues so as long as the north wind prevails. With easterly winds there is always dry serene weather here, having little or no change to the contrary. During the south wind the weather is favourable; but no sooner does it veer to the west, and continues to blow hard, than in a few hours it begins to rain. Notwithstanding

\* Harvest 1771 was favourable, the crop was good, and safely got in. A very great fall of snow took place in the beginning of January 1772, which continued with intervals until near the end of March; intense frost succeeded in April; so that, notwithstanding almost the whole crop, and all the provender had been given to the cattle, yet more than one third of the live stock of this parish died. Harvest 1782 was very bad; very little of the crop was secured. It was mostly lost, being covered with snow. Spring 1783 was more favourable than that of 1772, consequently less loss of cattle. At this very time, viz. September 24. 1793, the barley is not yet down, therefore a very late harvest is dreaded...



standing that such in general is the climate here, yet there is a considerable difference betwixt the heaviness of showers and other yearly storms falling on the heights, in comparison of those which fall on the lower parts of the parish, called Fa-un-Affint; in the last neither showers of rain, nor storms of snow are so violent; whereas on the heights they are often felt severely: In short, some winter-seasons pass near the shore, with little or no snow, but only intense frost; while at the same time, the farthest inland end of Slissh-a-chilish, and the whole heights of this parish, groan under a load of both. But though the climate be thus rainy, and the air moist during deluges such as have been described, yet upon ceasing of the rain, a smart easterly wind arising, and continuing for the space of 24 hours, will perfectly abate the waters, carry off all superfluous rain from the surface, and moisture from the air. That the weather here is very changeable cannot be denied; sometimes very serene and pleasant, but oftener the reverse, which is the state of all places in such northern latitudes, abounding with lofty hills, as this parish does. However, that the air here is healthful will easily be admitted, as it is a fact well known, that people from South Britain, and from the Isle of Man, have lived comfortably here; and, at this very time, natives of the East and West Indies reside in this parish, enjoying perfect health, acquiring a habit and constitution of body almost equally robust as that of the natives.

There are at present here the same diseases which pervade other places, such as chincough, measles, and small-pox. Inoculation is not yet universally introduced, on account of vulgar prejudice. Among the numerous inhabitants who dwell along Slissh-a-chi-lissh and Row-store, to Inverkirrag river, fevers and diarrhoeas sometimes prevail, owing, as is said, to cold fishing seasons. In the 1768, there



was indeed a very infectious epidemical fever, which having been introduced from other places, cut off a great number, the stoutest and most vigorous in the space of three days, others in that of four; if the infected survived the fifth, especially the seventh day, they generally escaped.

*Instances of Longevity.*—Mrs Christian Gray, daughter of the Reverend Mr Alexander Gray, (the late learned and worthy Episcopal parson here), died at the age of 100 years at least. The narrator saw and often conversed with her for one or two years after his admission in the 1765. She retained the memory of every thing of importance that came within her knowledge to the very close of life.

Hugh Matthison, tenant in Baddy-danoch by Loch-Inver, was, by his own account, 95 years of age. He enjoyed good health, and went a fishing in his little boat until within some few days of his death.

John Mackenzie, tenant in Clashmore, says, that he is at the close of 100 years at least. He can still thresh corn, and do other domestic affairs.

Mrs Mackenzie of Glenlerag, who died much about 1767, saw the fourth generation lineally descended from her. She was upwards of 100 years, and retained her memory, &c. to her death.

*State of Property: Whether changeable or not.*—The property of this parish has perhaps undergone as few changes as any. Tradition, and even documents declare \*,  
that,

\* These documents are in the archives of the present noble proprietors of this parish; and if the narrator remembers well, Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun hints at this fact, in his history of that ancient family.



that it was a forest of the ancient Thanes of Sutherland. One of these prime Thanes gave it in vassalage to one Mac-Kry-cul, who, in ancient times, held the coast of Coigach, that part of it at the place presently (1793) called the village of Ullapool\*. The Noble Thane made Affint over in the above manner, as Mac-Kry-cul had recovered a great quantity of cattle, carried off from the county of Sutherland by foreign invaders †. Mac-Kry-cul's family, by the fate of war in those days of old, being reduced to one heir-female, she was given in marriage to a younger son of Macleod, laird of Lewis, the Thane of Sutherland consenting thereto; and also making this parish over to the new married couple, together with its superiority. The result of this marriage was fourteen successive lairds here of the name of Macleod ‡. In 1660, or about that time, this parish and its superiority became the property of the Earl of Seaforth, who made it over to a younger son of his family, whose successors possessed it for three or four generations: Thereafter it was purchased by Lady Strathnaver, who gave it as a present to her Noble and no less deserving grandson, the late William Earl of Sutherland, father of the present Right Honourable Countess of Sutherland, married to Earl Gower, heir apparent to the Marquis of Stafford. Thus the barony and

\* Larich, Teay, Mackry-cul is still known at Ullapool village, *i. e.* That very spot where Mac-Kry-cul had his house is known.

† Scandinavians, who burnt the great fir forests on all this and adjacent coasts.

‡ The short manuscript history of these gentlemen the narrator read. He thinks it may be found in the library of the late Roderick Macleod, Esq; of Cadboll, a lineal descendant of the lairds of Affint.



and parish of Affint reverted to the Noble family who gave it to Mac-Kry-cul\*.

*Heritors.*—The late good Earl William, having got Affint†, soon thereafter granted wadsets or feus, to the number of six. The gentlemen who held them first, resided on the coast of Sutherland by Dornoch, &c. None of them have their abode here.

*Instances of good and bad Seasons.*—The most remarkable instances of bad seasons are the following: In 1766, when the

\* Mac-Kry-cul is reported by the people here to be the potent man, of whom are descended the Macnicols, Nicols, and Nicolfsons.

† This Noble family, in respect of antiquity, is equal to any. Some are of opinion, that a prince or chieftain of the German Celti (whom the Roman historian mentions, Tac. ger. 30. 1.) was progenitor of it. Be that as it will, it is fact that the county of Sutherland, in the Gaelic language is called Shir-ri-acht-chatt; the natives, by the same language, are denominated Chattick; and the Earl called Mor-ir-chatt. Further, there is early mention of the Thanes of Sutherland in Buchanan's history of Scotland; for proof of this the history of the usurper Macbeth may be read, who, to possess the Crown, assassinated his own cousin, King Duncan I. and put to death soon thereafter the Thanes of Gaithness, Sutherland, Ross, and Nairn, &c. in the year 1043. However, the survivors of these Thanes, conjoining with the other great chieftains of Scotland, expelled the usurper, and placed Malcolm III. on the throne of his fathers, Buchanan's History, B. 6. and 7. It appears also from the 9th book of same historian, that in the year 1370, or thereby, King David II. preferred Alexander, son to the Earl of Sutherland, by his David's second sister, to succeed him as King of Scotland; the nobility accordingly swore fealty to him; but Alexander dying soon after, the King was reconciled to Robert Stewart, the son of his eldest sister. In short, this Noble family always concurred in promoting and effecting the general good and happiness of the state or kingdom. As evidence of this, read Dr Smollet's history of 1715, vol. 10. where the patriotic conduct of John Earl of Sutherland, in the House of Peers, against the Earl of Anglesey, &c. will appear conspicuous.



the narrator came here, the crop was lost, also the peats almost. In spring 1772, in consequence of the preceding indifferent harvest, one-fourth part of the cattle perished. In particular, the case was, That a great storm of snow came on in the beginning of January; it continued off and on till the beginning of April, when it was carried away suddenly by a great and uncommon deluge of rain. Frost continued throughout April: In a word, though all the provender, and even the corn was given, the cattle perished. The 1782 was bad; but nothing so distressing as the last mentioned. This same 1793 has been distressing throughout the whole of it; the crop is for the most part damaged, and the best of it hurt. In short, by observation, the narrator can truly say, that every 9th or 10th year turns out distressing, either by loss of crop, loss of cattle, perhaps both, if the spring proves not favourable; and in the same proportion of years presently mentioned, there is generally a failure of credit by drovers in more or less degree; for, as they drive all the cattle sold here, and other neighbouring northern parishes, to the southern markets, they must necessarily feel the effects of bad seasons and times; and such is the case here at present. The intermediate years betwixt every 9th or 10th year, are, upon the whole, not to be complained of.

*Crop of the whole Parish, &c. and Number of Souls.*—The crop of the whole parish consists of oats, the small black kind, of barley and potatoes. When good years occur, the produce of all these, on the heights of the parish, may suffice for six or seven months at most. For the lower parts, and along the whole coast, it will probably serve for ten months; and in case of a good herring-fishing, and plenty of them secured for family consumption, the year may pass tolerably well in this quarter. But in bad years, no less



than 1500 bolls at least, (and that used with the greatest economy, as an addition to what may remain of the produce here), will serve the whole parish, which the narrator believes to contain 3000 souls. The people residing on the height, though by far the fewer, will consume more victual, in proportion to their number, than those of the low coast will use; and this by reason of the more or less supply of fish from the sea contiguous to them, which the inhabitants of the height can have no advantage by.

*Price of Victual and Provisions.*—The price of victual has of late years risen very much. About twenty years ago, the writer of this account has known the boll of victual sold for 8 s. Sterling; a live wedder at 5 s.; the stone of butter, equal to 24 lb. English weight, sold at 6 s. Cheese *per* stone, at 2 s. 6 d. sometimes at 3 s.; a good fat Highland cow at L. 1, 15 s. or thereby; but now the case is very much reversed. The victual now-a-days draws here, *communibus annis*, L. 1 Sterling at least *per* boll, if imported, expence, &c. included. If carried from the county of Sutherland, or that of Ross, in this case, servants, horses and harness, with tear and wear, must be prepared, and will be either five or six days betwixt going and returning. At this very day shepherds draw from 13 s. to 15 s. for a good wedder. The butter fetches 10 s. *per* stone; cheese *per* stone 4 s. and sometimes 5 s. The price of black cattle is very changeable here, as already hinted at in the preceding page, and the reason for it is the instability of droving. Further, it may be easily observed and admitted, that the multiplicity of licensed stills in the low corn-counties, tend greatly to the rather too great increasing price of victual.

*Wages, &c. and Price of Labour.*—Wages to domestic servants is not high here; one with the other included will  
not



not exceed L. 1 Sterling *per annum*. The great concern of the farmer, or any other head of a family here, is to provide provisions, cloathing, bedding, &c. for his herds, milk-maids, &c. The dearthness of these several articles, together with the expence and trouble of carriage, mentioned above, is the reason why the fees of domestic servants cannot be so high in this as in corn-parishes. Of old times, and at this very day, there is a proverb used in the Highlands, which, when translated, expresses literally, That it is for decent food and accommodation, and not for wages, they (domestic servants) serve. Labour by the day is accounted high, being 8 d. 10 d. &c.; and therewith they are fed thrice a-day. The reason why day labourers are so high in their demand, is, that all those not serving in families always resort to the numerous fishing-vessels on the coast, where men well skilled in packing, may gain at least 2s. *per day*; strong old women, and industrious lasses, 1s. 6 d. *per day*, by gutting the herrings.

*Caves and Pigeons.*—There is a very large one in Lofty-fa-il-vine, another at Knockan; also a very spacious one at Cul-kin-ach-na-karnan, Go-an-dun-an \*, otherwise called, Go-na-kal-man. This cave is no great distance from the point or land-end of Row-store. Besides these there are many more; to such, and to the clefts of rocks, the pigeons resort to hatch and for shelter. There are no other dove-cotes here.

*Woods.*

\* Go-an-dun-an, called so by reason of its being near the remains of a dune, built by Scandinavians, when upon their being defeat near Dornoch, and in the adjacent parts of the county of Ross. To that place they resorted, and built a dune. Then they burned the large fir-forests of Affint, &c. Go-na-kal-man, *i. e.* the Pigeon-cove. The Scandinavians having built a large birch-lin or ship, they went to their own country.



*Woods.*—There are some birch-trees thinly scattered here and there by the coast of Slìsh-a-chi-lìsh, all along from Unapool to Oldney, both places included. There is also of the same kind in many different thin plots, far distant from one another, from Oldney to Inver-kirk-ag; but this last mentioned tract lies at the distance of at least two long miles from the coast. From Poul-a-gar-vir, on the south side of Inver river, thence along in an east direction by Lower and Upper Tubegges winterings, there are woods of the same kind. In like manner, there is from Little Assint, towards Tumore, the north side of Loch Assint. The whole woods, though of no great value, are of considerable importance to the parish, as, in time of great storms and falls of snow, every species of cattle resort to them for shelter; nay, they browse on the copse; however, there are in many places some slender trees, which, if preserved, as now by the present factor, will certainly answer the end which the late good Earl had in view; which was, that these woods should repair and build the houses of all his Lordship's tenants, also the office-houses of wadsetters and feuers, in the event they thought proper to build here for themselves\*.

*Gardens, &c.*—There are small gardens, which afford cabbages, &c. but there are no orchards.

*Kelp, &c.*—There is no kelp made here. The little sea-ware that is, grows within the harbours formerly mentioned; all the remaining part of the coast is either bold or shallow, consequently no sea-weed can grow there, though occasionally some loose sea-weed may come in.

The

\* All this the narrator heard from Mr Gilchrist, Colonel Sutherland, and Mr Rose, factors.



The farmers houses along the whole coast being built either opposite or adjacent to the harbours, for that very reason the late Noble Earl thought it of greater general good, that the several farms should have the sea-ware to improve the uncultivated heathy surface, and thereby add to the comfortable subsistence of his tenants, rather than any trifling pittance whatever that might be offered to his Lordship's factors \* ; and the same plan the present Noble proprietors have adopted.

*Fisberies, &c.*—Herring-fishing has been formerly discussed. But it is a fact, that several years past a very decent, devout, and beneficent man, one Mr Richard Keld, (he was one of a fishing company at Whitby), came to this coast, having two sloops, purposely to make trial of cod and ling fishing. His principal station he fixed at Culkin-drumbaig; yet, though rather late in his setting out from Whitby, he succeeded well. He meant to have taken a few of some acres there, with intencion to build a fishing station. For that purpose his intencion was communicated by the narrator to Colonel James Sutherland, of Uppall, then factor; but the ships belonging to his company having been taken up in government-service as victuallers at the commencement of our differences with our American colonies, Mr Keld's design did not take place. Mr Keld, after having returned to England, exchanged one or two letters with the narrator, wherein he says, that though by reason of his late setting out for the fishing ground, he was short of his complement, yet that the quality of his cod

\* The late Earl made the tour of Affint; from Ledbeg his Lordship went to Unapool; thence by boat to Clachtoll, where he and his numerous attendants past a night; from Clachtoll by boat to Loch Inver; thence to Ledbeg by Edravine road; thence to Dunrobin Castle.



cod and ling made up for all, cleared expence, and returned a little profit.

*Ferries.*—There is no ferry here; the only one that would be necessary, is one at Unapool of Affint, by Kiliscu-ig to Edrachilish, or *vice versa*.

*Seamen.*—Properly speaking, there are no such here; but if tugging an oar in a boisterous sea can be called the accomplishment of seamen, in this event all the tenants of the present Noble proprietors along coast are seamen.

*Ale-houses, Inns, and Police, &c.*—No ale-houses here, nor inns, except honest tenant's houses, at certain distances here and there, on the several tracks or roads not cleared up, where the weary traveller may now get a good, clean, Highland woollen plaid, and a comfortable pallet or couch to sleep on. There are no bridges betwixt Affint and Dornoch, nor one betwixt Affint and Tain, excepting that called the bridge of Grug-ag, near Kincardine, Rosshire. If there were bridges, the road is well opened to Brae of Strath-Okel; but thence to Affint is a very fatiguing length; no houses; none of accommodation; that whole tract to Affint, is a perfect wilderness; the whole is sheep-farms without stages.

*Number of Ships.*—There are no ships here; but many that come to our coast and safe harbours, do well for themselves and owners. Lieutenants Mackenzie of Ledbeg, and Scobie of Crom-auld, hire a sloop from Leith yearly, (and that but of late), to carry away their salmon, and some herrings which they attempt to cure, in order to make up the lading of the vessel. One John Mackenzie, tackfman of Inver, and George Ross, tackfman of Baddy-



saaban, cure, each of them, from one to two hundred barrels of herrings, as the fishing season is favourable, or the reverse.

*Ancient State of Population.*—This parish having been a forest; having undergone as few changes as any whatever of its extent; it is easy to suppose, that though mankind were at first but few, they would gradually increase; besides, civilization being introduced by the successive proprietors. Also, that by far the greater number of inhabitants were situated on the coast, and having harbours, therefore the common skill, knowledge, and industry of the natives, together with their best exertions engaged to reduce a rugged soil; to such endeavours, the health, the support, and equal increase of the inhabitants are owing. The narrator is perfectly persuaded in his own mind, that the natives are a third more numerous than when he first came in 1766; which increase, under the blessing of God, the narrator ascribes to the causes presently mentioned, as also to the benignity of the successive landlords or superiors. The present number of inhabitants, including young and old folks, is thought to be 3000.

*Division of Inhabitants, &c.*—There are no religious divisions here; the inhabitants are of the Established Church; excepting a few not natives, particularly the gentlewomen mentioned in a preceding part of this account, *viz.* one from the East, the other from the West Indies. Whatever occupation a man may follow here, he is more or less engaged in labouring the ground, tends a few cattle of one kind or other, which is the principal means of living. There is but one smith, and he can only fabricate iron as an edging to the crooked and straight spades formerly noticed, as also the few coulter and plough-shares



shares used here; but he has no skill to shoe a horse, which, when any have business to go to the low countries, either Sutherland or Ross county, is vastly inconvenient.

*Uninhabited Houses.*—Of these there are two in a great state of decay, *viz.* the castle of Ardvreck, the residence of Donald-Bane-More Macleod, laird of Assint; it was built in the 1597 or 1591; the figures are rather worn. It was a place of strength and defence in its day.

The other house was built by the Earl of Seaforth's son, in a modern manner, of an elegant figure, and great accommodation. It had fourteen bed-chambers, with the conveniency of chimnies or fire-places. Both houses are situated by the north side of Loch Assint, and not far from the parish kirk.

*Number of Cattle, &c.*—It was formerly mentioned, that this barony and parish was divided into 32 oxgates of land. Some of them are more, and others are less rated by the old valued rent, as they may have been judged of greater or less value, according to the extent, &c. However, it is highly probable that the following calculation may be pretty sure. Then, taking all the oxgates, one with the other, at an average 120 to each:

1 <sup>st</sup> , Of the cow-kind, including calves,	-	3840
2 <sup>d</sup> , Of horses in same manner, including their foals and fillies,	-	384
3 <sup>d</sup> , Of sheep, including lambs, in same manner,	-	3840
4 <sup>th</sup> , Of goats, one oxgate with another, 32 <i>per</i> oxgate, in same manner,	-	1024
Total number of cattle, &c.	-	9088
There are no swine here.		



**Coal and Fuel.**—The height of this parish abounds with limestone. There is no saying but coals may be under it, if the vast quantity of moor and moss above it may be consumed. It were to be wished that a trial was made, as the drying and securing of fuel is\*, for the most part, a very troublesome and an expensive affair. What are called peats are only used here.

**The Rent of the Parish.**—The old valued rent of this parish is 4000 merks Scots, exclusive of the few salmon-fishing rivers already mentioned. The real present rent is about L. 1000 Sterling.

**Iron Mines.**—Iron mines were dug here of old. The ore was also smelted in different places of this parish; but the vast woods being consumed by Scandinavian invasions, it was of course given up; but if coal were found, that work might be still tried. At Tubeg particularly, these mines were dug, &c.; charcoal was plentifully got, the bounds being one thick forest. John Sinclair, still living, found a piece of iron; it was of shape roundish; it was not cast into bars then; it weighed from 17 to 20 pounds weight. This John Sinclair and his master caused the smith to work it as (caibe) edgings for labouring implements.

**Marble.**—There is plenty of marble at Ledbeg, Ry-an-traid, and Ardware, close by the Kilis, &c.

**State of the Church, &c. Schools.**—The church and manse had a very slight repair seven or eight years ago;

\* i. e. Peats, or moss cut in a quadrangular manner, and dried in the open air, and then secured.



so slight, indeed, that owing to the very high winds which occasionally prevail here, many of the slates of both are driven or fallen off, and the rain gets in, particularly into the manse, and the glass windows of both kirk and manse are greatly injured. At same time that kirk and manse were repaired, there was a very decent parochial school-house built; the windows now require a repair of glass, and the roof that of a little thatch. Winds occasionally blow extremely high here. There are two preaching places, one at Achmahiglash, otherwise called Kirktown; the other preaching place at Torbreck, one English mile distant from Loch-Inver. The distance betwixt Achmahiglash and Torbreck is eight long computed miles.

The minister's stipend was, a few years ago, augmented. It amounts to L. 87 : 4 : 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling, and L. 3 Sterling to furnish communion-elements; in all, L. 90 : 4 : 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ . There is no victual-stipend; and to say truth, no such could at the present period and state of agriculture be expected. But the providing of victual must be of great expence to every minister here. The glebe is half an oxgate of land; the grass part of it is distinct by itself; partly rocky and mountainous; the lower part, or fields, is what is here called run-rig\*. The glebe goes by the name, The half-oxgate of Ca-more. The present incumbent caused build a very little Highland mill, of the simplest construction, on the north side of Fraligal river, and on a particular part of the glebe there. The victual of whatever kind is carried at a vast expence, and grounded here, and saves the expence of a servant.

Within

\* That is, half of every little field. The glebe haifs are for most part next the grass of the glebe. It would be desirable that these low grounds or fields were divided into two equal halves, and not run-rig, as it would have a tendency towards improvement. The present minister has launched too much on reducing and improving the surface of his farm and glebe.



Within less than one year preceding this (1794) date; there are two schoolmasters; the parochial; the other very humanely granted by the Honourable Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. The former has L. 8 : 6 : 8 Sterling yearly salary; the latter L. 12, which was obtained by the application of a few gentlemen graziers here, and the narrator gave his concurrence.

*Marriages, &c.*—The nearest account that can be given, after strict enquiry, is the following, viz. 10 marriages and 20 baptisms, *communibus annis*.

*Burial Grounds.*—As for burial places, at a considerable distance one from the other, there are no less than six. 1<sup>st</sup>, At Ach-na-hi-glassh, or Kirktown; 2<sup>d</sup>, At Ged-a-vo-lich, by the west of Loch-Nedd; 3<sup>d</sup>, At Ardvare, where, as formerly said, there is plenty of marble under the heather, which indeed the narrator came accidentally to know of, as behappened to be travelling alone, and missed the road-track; 4<sup>th</sup>, At Oldney Island; 5<sup>th</sup>, At the farm of Store; 6<sup>th</sup>, At Inver farm, near the entry of Inver river to the harbour of spacious Loch Inver. All these burial places are, for the most part, inclosed with a dry stone fence. The inhabitants have a regard for the memory of their departed friends and relations, perfectly detached from what we call idolatry, as it only consists in doing all the good possible to the survivors of the departed.

*State of the Poor, and their Funds.*—Properly speaking, though many here are poor, they cannot be represented as a burden to the parish. The natives are all connected by alliance. When any one becomes old and feeble, their nearest relations build a little comfortable house for them,  
close



close to their residence; and even there the distaff and spindle is well managed. These old matrons nurse the children of their relations; the songs and airs of Fingal, and ancient heroes, are sung in the Gaelic tongue, to which the little children dance.

Old men are prudently engaged in some domestic affair, such as repairing the houses of the neighbouring tenants, &c. In short, they share with their relatives all the viands of the family.

At this period, the poorest stranger, even though unacquainted, finds charity and safe shelter. But there is a very great distance (and now no places as of old) in the wilderness betwixt this parish and the inn at Brea of Strathokell. Such being the condition of the poor in Affint parish, there are no public funds. The little trifle of money that is collected every Sabbath day after divine worship is served, is yearly distributed amongst the most friendless and deserving poor.

*Eminent Men.*—There are none such here in point of grandeur and wealth, except the proprietors. There were indeed, men of considerable and acknowledged education, literature, polished manners, and hospitality, viz. Mr Mackenzie, late of Ardloch, and Mr Roderick Macleod, late of Ledmore. But the narrator should have mentioned as the first, a gentleman whom he never saw, but heard of his character, and that was the Reverend Mr Alexander Gray, the last Episcopal parson here. He, by all accounts, was an eminent classical scholar. He could fluently speak the European languages of his day, for which reason he was preferred as travelling governor to John Earl of Sutherland, when his Lordship made the tour of Europe. It is said the Highlanders in friendly conversation called him, *An Feal-a-roy*, i. e. The red-haired Lord,



A few high military characters might be mentioned; but such are presently passed by, as the naming of them would swell this tedious account too much.

*Antiquities.*—It is at least presumable, if not highly probable, that Scandinavian idolatry did prevail here. The reason for entertaining this opinion is, that in island Oldney there is a considerable cairn of stones, which might originally have been a little temple; in that cairn is yet to be seen a hollowed stone, having a lid, or cover of stone; it is not a Popish font, for this reason, that one Donald Macleod, *alias* Machomash, once residenter on Oldney-mainland, and other old men in the neighbourhood, all of them honest undefigning men, declared to the narrator; that about 60 years ago there was a round stone within the hollowed one, of the size and shape of a large egg, for which especially, as also for the adjacent burial ground there, they and their forefathers had the greatest veneration: That the above old people saw that round stone: That on account of its variegated minute colours of bright and shade, it was always shown to strangers: That it was stolen, or privately taken away by a seafaring man, to whom, in the usual manner, it was shown as a curiosity. Whether that round stone was or was not the stone of Loda, mentioned by the immortal Ossian, the narrator leaves to be decided by researchers in antiquities; however, that no less ancient bard than sweet, sings of “Sniven and the stone of power.” The occasion was, Starno King of Lochlin, having been defeated by Fingal,

\* ————— Calls old Snivan,  
Who oft had sung around the stone of power,  
And oft, when Lochlin's sons were known to yield,  
He turn'd the stream of battle on the field.

There

\* Vol. II. Book 3. at the beginning of Ossian's Poems, translated by Mr Wodrow, late minister of Inlay.



There is the clearest evidence of the Druids having been here in times of old, as to this day there is on the bounds of Clachtoll farm (three miles directly inland from that shore) a prodigious pile of huge stones close by a great rock, having an entry through no less than we moderns would call two half-moons; next appears an entry by a porch. The narrator made an excursion from Torbreck to the very place; he wished to have entered; but small stones and earth had so much filled up the entry, that he could not make his way. However, a boy who attended went in. He had in command not to go farther than the first apartment he should meet, for fear of missing his way in return. Having returned, he reported, that there were several passages off the large room, into which he entered, and that he thought these by appearance led to different chambers. This ancient ruin, in the Gaelic language, is at this very period called, Ty-tal-vine-na-drui-nich, *i. e.* The earthly habitation of the Druids \*.

Further, at Ledbeg, a Druidical pruning hook was found several years ago, in time of peat-cutting. No person here could tell what it was, or intended for, until the present Earl of Bristol, then Bishop of Derry, happened, in course of his northern excursion, to pass a few days and nights in this parish. It having been shown to his Lordship, he instantly declared it, a Druidical pruning hook. His Lordship further added, that several such were found in England, and to be seen in the museums of the literati there. If the narrator remembers, Dr T. Smollet, author of the history of South Britain, (vol. 1. at the very beginning) makes mention of the Druids and their pruning hooks, with which they did yearly cut the oak mistletoe, thereby

\* The natives here traditionally tell, that the Druids had the knowledge to make beer of the crop of heather, and to cure every wound.



thereby pretending to foretel either a favourable season, or the reverse. Mrs Mackenzie of Ardloch made a present of this Druidical hook to his Lordship.

Adjacent to the present parochial kirk is to be seen the only remaining part of the first of that kind that was built here. The case was, one Æneas, or Angus Macleod, laird of Affint, having gone to Rome to visit the Pope; and the Pontiff conferring favours, the laird in return vowed, that when he returned to Affint, he would build and endow a kirk, which the laird performed, to the amount of the fifth part of his then yearly rent. The only vestige of this ancient building is a vault, a burial place; it is high arched. The present Mr Macleod of Geanies, Sheriff-depute of the county of Ross, as immediate descendent of these lairds, gave it a repair a few years ago, but not to the better, as one William Cowie, from Tain, employed, pulled down an upper apartment which was over the arch, which the natives reported to be a place for private devotion. Heath now grows on the top of the arch.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The Highland girls of this parish for the most part marry at the age of betwixt 16 and 21 years; the lads at that of betwixt 20 and 25. There are some instances of women bearing children to the age of 50 years at least. It is no uncommon sight to see a grandmother give her breast to her own grandchild to suckle. Some fond mothers nurse their children for two years. Other mothers nurse their infants for three; and truly the narrator has seen a boy at his mother's breast at the age of four years, and then break halle-nuts under his teeth.

As for dunes, there are some to be seen here: 1<sup>st</sup>, That very large one at Clachtoll, close by the sea, towards the farm of Store. It exceeds by far any of the kind the narrator ever saw. Three circular out-works at regular distances, surround it on the land-side; the boisterous ocean

defends



depends it on that quarter towards the offing. This dune, if any, is worthy of taking a draught of.

2dly, There is one at Clashnessly, built on the clefts of two rocks, which stretch out into the turbulent sea there.

3dly, There are ruins of a dune in the middle of Loch-Ardvare; the great dune, one at Achamore, the other at Achnaheglash, have been taken away to build office-houses and fences. Besides the above dunes, there are also to be seen here *Cairns*, i. e. great heaps of stones; they are circular at the base, and raised in the centre, forming, in some manner, the figure of a cone. The traditional account of them is, That they were the sepulchres of the ancient natives, to prevent the then numerous wolves from devouring the bodies of their departed relations. In support of this account, there is even to this day a Gaelic phrase common here, and among all Highlanders, viz. " Mo vis mish beo; dei do vas, cara mish cloich, 'er do charn-nan;" i. e. " If I be alive after your death, I will carefully lay a stone on your cairn," i. e. grave.

The volcanic influence seems to have had effect here. This opinion is founded on the following particulars: On the bounds of Inchnadaff farm, near its march with that of Stronchruby, not fifty yards from the highway, is to be seen a very large piece of limestone, or rather lime, that suffered fusion, for it has some large common granite stones firmly fixed in it. In some parts of its superficies it is full of pores, and black. In short, it has all the appearance of having suffered the gréatest possible heat. Is this the effect of a volcano, or is it not? Again, from Loch Ah, near Layne, a river issues, which holds its course sometimes through moss, gravel, and splintered rocks, at length it enters into Loch Assint at Inchnadaff; all the track from this last mentioned to Layne, being five English miles, abounds with limestone in different forms; but on the opposite



posite side of the river Ah, there is not the smallest piece of limestone to be found. It only abounds with heather, moors, bogs, and high rocky hills: This severing of the high limestone rocks from the opposite mountainous bleak hills, joined with the consideration of the river's channel above mentioned, can hardly be accounted for but by ascribing them to some uncommon convulsion of nature.

*Character of the People, &c.*—They are in general civil sober, and hospitable to a high degree; but they begin now to observe, that neither they themselves, nor their servants, meet equal returns of kindness and attention when abroad, as they anxiously afford here in their own homely manner. They are patient of hunger, cold, and fatigue, by sea and land, as emergencies may require. In general, they are serious and devout, and do not approve, but highly dislike the contrary character wherever seen; yet, when imprudently provoked or insulted, they will shew themselves not devoid of resentment. They are now becoming every day more industrious and attentive to domestic affairs. Their manners are simple and chaste; few instances, comparatively speaking, have occurred here to the contrary, for these twenty-five years past; and when they have happened, they were candidly acknowledged.

Their stated customs are few. In time of the holidays, relations and neighbouring families mutually visit, are innocently chearful and facetious. In the proper season of the year they repair to the low-country markets to sell cattle, and other produce of their farms; in return, they carry home victual, and other articles necessary for their families.

The stature of the inhabitants is in general of the middle size. Middle size here is called five feet five or six



inches. There are some six feet high, and but a few above that standard.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The greatest advantages of this parish are, that it mostly lies on a coast having some harbours, &c. Its great disadvantages are, that the climate is both stormy and rainy, especially at the heights of the parish, &c. as particularly described in a preceding part of this account.

*By what means the Situation of the Inhabitants and Parish might be meliorated.*—By good roads and decent inns. If a road were opened from Lairg by Braemore of that parish; thence by Rosehall, Tu-tom-tar-vach, by Finvin, and Garva-chirn, thence to Auld-an-na-kal-gach, the present march of this parish with Balnagown property; any person would walk easily enough betwixt Dunrobin and this parish of a short day. Besides roads carried on in Affint, and inns built, a few bridges would be necessary. One store-house, if not two; at Loch-Inver one; at Unapool another; the former would be sufficient to serve the low, the latter to serve the higher parts of Slisb-a-chilish, and inhabitants of the height. The victual of the Honourable proprietors put up in these store-houses would prevent the exorbitant prices of importers, and secure the money to the former. People of enterprize, character, and credit, desirous of prosecuting fisheries and manufactures, should be encouraged to settle in all places where there are harbours, for there is command of moss and water-falls along the coast, also plenty, or rather a profusion of stone and limestone to build; for though there is no limestone in the low part of the parish, if the roads were opened, lime might be had from the height, or from Glencul-edrachilish by sea; by such being introduced, there can  
be



be no saying to what great number the inhabitants might increase, and live much more comfortably than they presently do. Even although gentlemen of enterprise should not come, villages might be built in or near the harbours, which in course of time would not fail to produce the aforesaid valuable purposes to the Honourable proprietors and the people at large. By either of the above taking place, the parish would find a market at home for all its produce, and be able to make better returns. It is as easy and safe to sail to any part of the world from this coast, and return to it, as any other part whatever of Great Britain. In short, the height of this parish should not be depopulated for fear of further encroachments. It is a pity a charity schoolmaster were not settled with a moderate salary at Ned, and another at Ledmore. Preparatory to the above suggested, and other improvements, the proprietors ought to send a person of sound judgment to view and determine on the whole.

NUM.



## NUMBER IX.

UNITED PARISHES  
OF  
ESSIE AND NEVAY,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FORFAR, PRESBYTERY OF  
MEIGLE.)

*By the Rev. Dr PLAYFAIR.*

*Situation and Extent.*

THE parishes of Essie and Nevay, 3—4 miles from west to east, and 2—3 from north to south, are bounded on the east and south by the parish of Glammis, on the south-west by Newtyle, on the west and north by Meigle and Airly; lying in the presbytery of Meigle, commissariat of St Andrew's, synod and county of Forfar; in extent amounting to 8 square miles, that is, about 5120 English or 4096 Scotch acres; whereof about 2500 are cultivated, 530 in pasture, 220 covered with wood, and the remainder heathy and barren.

*Surface*



*Surface and Soil.*—The northern declivity of the Sidla hills composes one half of both parishes. The soil of this division is a thin black mould, on a bottom of mortar ; but, its exposure notwithstanding, it is more fertile, and yields earlier crops, than any part of that ridge which fronts the south. Towards the summit of the hills the soil degenerates, and is fit for planting or pasture only. The highest part of the southern boundary does not exceed 950 feet above the level of the adjacent plain.

The soil of the lower part of the parish is various. In Nevay, a level and marshy tract, containing some moss on a stratum of sand, is a continuation of the extensive moss of Meikle. No marl has been found in the former, though there be abundance in the latter. That tract stretches eastward to the church of Effie, and north to the Dean. Some plots of it are cultivated ; the rest affords indifferent pasture. A low and flat territory, north of Effie, consists of a strong and rich clay, ill cultivated, and liable to be partially inundated by the river, which, in time of heavy rains, overflows its low banks. To the eastward of the church the soil is thinner, but friendly to vegetation.

*Climate.*—A greater quantity of rain falls in this district than in the low country south of Sidla. Last spring (1793) the fields in this neighbourhood were refreshed by copious showers, while the Carse of Gowrie, and territory to the eastward, remained dry and parched. The reason of this difference seems to be, that all clouds and vapours from the south-west are divided near the mouth of the river Earn, and attracted partly by the Sidla Hills, and partly by an elevated ridge stretching along the north coast of Fife ; so that little rain from that quarter falls upon the interval between those mountains. But, favoured as Strathmore is in this respect, the weather in general is extremely variable.



able. The spring is late; the autumn frequently cold and rainy; and during winter the piercing north-east wind prevails. The mildest month in the year is July. Seed-time begins about the end of March, and is concluded in two months; the hay-harvest is in July, and corn-harvest from the beginning of September to the end of October.

*Rivers, &c.*—The Dean, which flows from the loch of Forfar, forms the northern boundary of Effie, and runs westward to the Isla, into which it falls near Meikle. As this deep and sluggish river passes through a very level country, there are few falls sufficient for the purpose of machinery. Between its source and termination, the difference of elevation does not exceed 40 feet in the space of ten miles. At Cookstown, however, a mile W. N. W. of the church of Effie; there is a corn and a lint mill, both on the north bank of the river, and a communication to the southward is opened by a bridge lately constructed. This river is noted for the large size and delicious taste of its trouts. It contains also pike and perch, but no salmon, except a few *black fish* or *kelt* in autumn.

A rivulet, which rises in the hill of Nevay, and is augmented by a small stream from a drain in the marsh already mentioned, forms the western limit of the parish of Effie, and county of Forfar. In its progress northward it turns a mill, below which it loses itself in the Dean.

Another rivulet, called the burn of Effie, descends from a hill in the Sidla ridge, bathes the wall of the churchyard, and falls into the Dean. On this rivulet there is a lint-mill about a quarter of a mile S. E. of the church, on the turnpike-road to Glamis. There is no lake nor stagnate water in either parish.

*Estates.*



*Estates.*—Towards the conclusion of last century, the names of the proprietors of both parishes were, the Earl of Strathmore, the heirs of Lord Couper, Nevay of that ilk, Blair of Balthayock, and Lamy of Dunkennie. Three of these families have disappeared, two remain. The parish of Nevay now belongs to the Right Honourable James Stuart Mackenzie, Lord Privy Seal of Scotland; and that of Effie is divided among five proprietors, none of whom has a seat in the parish. The lands are under the management of frugal, industrious and substantial farmers. The proprietor of Nevay lately granted new leases to his tenants on this and his other estates in Strathmore. His moderation and generosity on that occasion will not be soon forgotten. Every occupier of a farm was secured in the possession of it, upon condition of paying a very small rise of rent. Had the usual methods of screwing and racking tenants been adopted, the landlord might have greatly increased his revenue; but he preferred the pleasure of making several hundreds of people comfortable and happy.

*Farms.*—The extent of farms is from 50 to 500 acres. The number of the most considerable is thirteen. They are in general larger than those in the same district 40 years ago. The enlargement of farms is attended with some disadvantages. When cottages are demolished, their inhabitants are constrained to retire to towns in quest of lodging and subsistence. When these nurseries of population fail, a sufficient number of working people cannot be easily procured, and the scarcity of a commodity proportionally enhances its value. The want of labourers is most sensibly felt in time of harvest. Some farmers find it necessary to employ bands of shearers from the north country, who cut down the corn at the rate of 6s. or 7s. *per acre*, and as soon as this work is finished, retire to the mountains.



In a rainy season the husbandman cannot always collect day-labourers sufficient to manage and bring home the crop, so that part of it is sometimes lost. This inconvenience is never known where cottagers are one of the productions of the soil.

The best arable land is let below 20 s. the acre. No rent is paid *per* advance. No services are required, except the carriage of some coals from Dundee. A few of the tenants have power to sublet; but this privilege is not generally granted. The valued rent of both parishes is about L. 1200 Scots; the real rent is L. 1270 Sterling.

An acre of good land well cultivated produces, in succession, 10 bolls oats, pease 5 or 6, wheat 8, turnip valued at L. 5 Sterling, barley 10 bolls, sown grass 180—240 stones of hay, besides another crop for green feeding the same season. The prices of grain and hay are regulated by the market at Dundee. The expence of labour, provisions and implements of husbandry is the same as in the neighbouring parish of Meigle, (see Vol. I. p. 515.)

*Inclosures.*—Inclosing and subdividing, partly by stone-walls, and partly by a ditch and bank set with quick, were introduced about 30 years ago by the proprietor of Nevay. A great proportion of the whole district is now inclosed with fences of the latter kind, which shelter the fields from inclement blasts more effectually than stone walls, but in a calm and moist season prevent a free circulation of air, and thereby prove hurtful to the crop. The ditches, however, being sufficient drains, render the fields in all seasons fit for cultivation. The practice of pruning hedges, so as to make the top flat and the sides perpendicular, prevails. A better plan has been adopted in some neighbouring districts, *viz.* to slope both sides gradually till they meet in a sharp ridge at top. By this mode of dressing a hedge, every part  
of



of the plant being exposed, receives its proper nourishment. In Nevay, sows of trees are planted in the hedges, which embellish the country, but eventually must be prejudicial to the thorns, and the adjoining part of the fields.

*Manure.*—Beside the dung of the farm-yards, and compost, consisting of weeds, ditch-scurings, ruins of mud-walls, &c. considerable quantities of marl are used. This excellent manure, whose qualities and operation are now well understood, is fetched from the mosses of Baikie and Maigle. The original price is 8d. per boll, containing 8 solid feet. Sixty bolls are allowed to an acre; but, by many experiments formerly made in the parish of Bendochy, it appears that a larger proportion will not injure the soil, if it be not overcropped. Marl incorporated with compost answers better than when mixed with farm-yard dung. It is usually spread on the surface of fallow, or on grass, some time before a field is broken up.

*Live Stock.*—Little attention is paid to the different breeds of animals. 141 horses are used for the purposes of husbandry; but most of these are purchased from distant counties. No black cattle are employed, though a few are reared. Sheep are entirely banished.

*Mines, &c.*—Near Castletown there is one mineral spring, and another on Sidla, a mile southward of Effie; but their qualities and virtues are unknown. A small vein of silver ore, too inconsiderable to be wrought, was discovered several years ago in the south-east corner of the parish. An excellent freestone quarry, in the parish of Nevay, at the foot of Sidla, has been lately neglected. The stone is of a light grey colour, and admits of a fine polish.



*Fuel.*—Peats are found in the moss of Cookstown. The appraised value of every cart-load, together with the expence of digging, winning, and carrying it two or three miles, may amount to 2 s. 6 d. Three cart-loads for domestic use are scarcely equal to one boll coals of 56 stones avoirdupois weight, the price of which, including carriage 12 miles, is 9 s. The scarcity and dearness of fuel have induced many of the inferior class to leave this part of the country.

*Plantations.*—There are few trees in this district, hedge-rows excepted. On the estate of Dunkennie, a mile eastward of the church of Effie, a small thriving plantation of Scotch fir diversifies the scene; and part of Sidla Hills was planted by the late Earl of Strathmore. A plantation of forest-trees on a barren tract to the westward, would be equally ornamental and useful.

*Houses.*—There is no town nor village in Effie or Neway; for the cottages near the church of the latter do not merit either of these appellations. The farm-houses and offices, with a few exceptions, are neatly built of substantial mason-work. The dwelling-house consists of two stories covered with slate. The huts of subtenants and mechanics have still a mean appearance, though more comfortable than at a preceding period. The farmer's mode of living is as much improved as his habitation. His attire is decent, his household-furniture not inelegant, and his table plentifully stored. In affluence he rivals the middling order of proprietors, and in hospitality excels them.

*Antiquities.*—About a mile west of the church of Effie, on the north side of the turnpike-road through the Strath, there is an ancient fortification, surrounded on the west, south, and east sides, by a very deep and broad ditch, and



on the north by a rivulet, whence the ditch was filled with water. Within a vast earthen mound or rampart is an area 120 yards in length, and 60 in breadth. Some antiquaries have ascribed this work to the Romans; but their route lies 2 miles northward, on the opposite side of the river Dean. Some coins of Edward I. having been found in the area, it is probable this fort, or castle, as it is vulgarly called, was constructed by the army of that invader. Vestiges of a large encampment may be traced at no great distance on the farm of Ingletown, a name which seems to favour my conjecture. At the church of Essie there is a stone 6 or 8 feet long and 2 broad, with several hieroglyphical characters engraven upon it, representing a hunting match. The purpose for which this monument was erected is unknown. At present it lies in a rivulet, and must soon be defaced.

*Population.*—The population of this district has remained nearly the same for a century past. A. D. 1727, it contained 640 inhabitants. According to the report made to Dr Webster, the number of examinable persons was 500; and there are now (A. D. 1793) 630 souls. Householders 132, servants of both sexes 102, weavers 29, tailors 4, shoemakers 5, wrights 5, masons 4, blacksmiths 3. Average of marriages 10, of births 20, of deaths 12.

*Manufactures.*—No manufacture has been ever established in these parishes, owing to their local situation, and distance from any considerable market-town.

*Roads.*—A turnpike-road from Perth to Aberdeen traverses the parish of Essie; and near the manse a toll-bar was erected several years ago; but the road westward to the limit of this parish is still unfinished, and thence to Meikle



**Meikle** it is almost impassable during winter. There is no direct road from either parish to Dundee; but one from Glamis, and another from Newtyle, to that seaport, were lately completed; and the distance between one or other of these places and the most remote point in the district does not exceed four miles.

**Church, &c.**—There is a small church in each parish, where divine service is performed alternately. The church of Effie is situated on an eminence, a miles west of Glamis, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  from Meikle; that of Nevay stands on a rising ground, formerly surrounded by a marsh  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles S. W. of Effie. Both are mean fabrics. The date of the union of these parishes was prior to the middle of last century. The manse, near the church of Effie, has a commanding prospect to the west and north-west. It is well built, and the offices are in good condition.

By an old decret of locality, the stipend was ascertained to be L. 433: 6: 8 Scots money, and 4 chalders victual; and the globe consisted of 4 acres of land adjoining to the manse,  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre at the church of Nevay, and an acre of grass. An augmentation having been granted not many years ago, the living is now worth L. 90 a-year. The names of the ministers since the reformation are, Mr David Brown, Mr Crichton, Mr Silvester Lamy, Mr Adam Davidson, Mr Alexander Finlayson, Mr Maxwell of Strathmartine, and Mr Ogilvy, the incumbent.

**School, &c.**—The parochial school and schoolmaster's house are situated near the centre of the district, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles S. W. of Effie church, in a barren spot at the foot of Sidla. The salary, with other emoluments annexed to that office, may amount to L. 12 Sterling. The number of scholars for some years past has been inconsiderable.

*Character.*



*Character.*—The inhabitants of this territory are sober and industrious, strangers alike to intemperance and dissipation of every kind. The vice of dram-drinking, which if we may rely on Statistical information, so much prevails in many parishes of Scotland, is here unknown. There is not a tavern or alehouse in either parish. These people, however, are open, generous and hospitable. That servile spirit, which diffused itself among the lower class during the rigour of the feudal system, no longer exists; and passions then predominant have subsided. They are neither proud nor parasitical. Mild and peaceable, they are neither ready to resent an injury, nor to harbour revenge. Attached to the national church, and the present form of government, they are not inclined to schism, nor prone to sedition, nor liable to change. Not a few of them enjoy the benefits and comforts of society, and all are contented with their condition.

NUM.



## NUMBER X.

## PARISH OF STRATH,

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, AND  
PRESBYTERY OF SKY.)

*By Mr THOMAS FRASER, of the Inverness Academy.*

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*Name, Situation, Soil, &c.*

THE name of the parish is *Strathswordle*, but for the sake of brevity it is called Strath, which is Gaelic, and signifies a valley; but *swordle* has no affinity to the Gaelic: probably it is of Danish origin. There are two farms in this island called Swordle, one of them in the middle of this parish. Strath is situated in the county of Inverness, presbytery of Sky, and Synod of Glenelg. The form of the parish is very irregular. Its length is about 13 Scotch miles, and its greatest breadth  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles. It is bounded on the E. by the sea, which divides it from the mainland of Applecross and Lochailsh; on the S. and S. E. by the parish of Sleat; on the W. by the parish of Bracadale;



dale ; and on the N. and N. W. by the parish of Portree. The middle of the parish is flat, but the greater part hilly. The hills on the north side of the parish are of a conical form, and very high. Such as have ascended their tops are of opinion, that volcanic eruptions have once taken place here, as the rubbish which is to be met with along their sides and at their bottom is not unlike lava. The hills that lie in the other districts of the parish are covered with heath. The soil is various ; in some parts clay, in some places a black loam, but by far the greater part mossy. There is great abundance of limestone ; some marble, but of an inferior kind, and too porous to admit of a fine polish. There is likewise a very good quarry of freestone, chiefly of a light blue colour. In the small island of Pabba there is the appearance of iron ore. Marl in abundance is found here in different places. The air is moist and foggy : More rain falls in this parish than in any other part of Sky. The most prevalent distempers are rheumatisms, colds, and nervous fevers.

*Fish, Kelp, Harbours, Islands, &c.*—The fish caught on the coast are cod, ling, mackrel, skate, flounder, lythe, fye, cuddies, and herring, but very few of these are exported. The herring for a few years back have not frequented the lochs of this parish in such quantities as formerly, nor have they staid so long —About 100 tons of kelp are made here annually, which, four years ago, sold for L. 6 *per* ton ; but for these three last years, has fallen to L. 4, and even to L. 3, 10s. The two small islands of Pabba and Scalpa constitute a part of this parish ; they lie to the east of it, and are distant about two thirds of a mile. The former is only a wintering place for cattle, of which it may support from 70 to 80 for half a year. The latter is 3 miles in length,



length, and from 2 to 2 in breadth, and is inhabited. The harbours are Loch Slapan, Loch Einart, and the Sound of Scalpa, where vessels of any burden may safely anchor. There are some fresh water lakes which are stored with red and white trout, and in one of them there are a few salmon, which are caught in a copious rivulet that runs from one of the lakes to the sea. Oysters, lobsters, crabs, limpets, spout-fish, and various other sorts of shell-fish, are to be found on the shores. The birds that most commonly frequent the shores are the wild goose, solan goose, cormorant, scale-drake, duck, teal, sea magpie, crane, curlew, plover, sandy lark, with gulls of different kinds. In the hills are deer, moorfowl, and black-game; the wild pigeon, hooded crow, and eagle, nestle in the rocks.

*Population.*—With respect to the ancient state of the population of the parish, little is known. There is every reason to believe that it has considerably increased within these 20 years. The increase may be attributed to inoculation for the small-pox having been practised here for at least 25 years, and to the letting the lands to small tenants. About 15 years ago, the whole parish was in the hands of a few gentlemen, some of whom had four or five farms; but the number of gentlemen-farmers is now reduced to one or two; and the other farms are let to small tenants, and ten families, consisting of five persons each at an average, are now living, where formerly there were not above three. Ten years ago the list of examinable persons contained upwards of 1200 \*; none included under 9 years of age. The present population, according to a list made out in June 1794, is 1579 souls.

3

There

\* The incumbent says he cannot be certain as to the exact number, but thinks the above nearly right.



There are here no extraordinary instances of longevity, but there are a few now living between 80 and 90 years of age. There is no tradesman here that confines himself solely to his trade, but is occasionally a farmer, fisherman, weaver, tailor, shoemaker, or carpenter, &c. There is no sectary of any kind or denomination in the parish. The heritors are two, *viz.* Lord Macdonald, and Mr Macalaster of Strathaird.

*Produce, Rents.*—There is no grain raised in the parish but oats, which are sown in April, and reaped from the first of September to the middle of October. Potatoes make a principal article of the food of the lower classes of people. They are planted in April and May, and ready for digging in August and September. The parish annually imports a great quantity of meal. The farmers depend on the sale of black cattle for the means of paying their rents, and supplying their families with what other articles of provision and clothing they may need. There are 25 farms in the parish, and only about 15 small ploughs of the Scotch kind are employed, drawn by four horses yoked a-breast. Many of the small tenants turn up the ground with the *Coiscbroim*, (crooked spade.) The rent of the parish, without including the kelp shores, is about L. 1300. There are in the parish 2213 black cattle, 501 horses, 2486 sheep, and upwards of 180 goats. Black cattle sold this year from L. 2 to L. 3, 8 s. *per* head. Sheep at 6 s. Butter and cheese, very little of which is sold from the parish, sells at present, the former 12 s. and the latter 5 s. *per* stone. For geese, ducks, hens, and eggs, there is no market, nor limited price. The yearly wages for men-servants are from L. 3 to L. 5, besides 3 pair of shoes. To an over-



feer from L. 4 to L. 7, besides the sowing of some seed. Women-servants have from 12 s. to 20 s. besides shoes.

*Stipend, School, Poor.*—The value of the living may be about L. 80, including the glebe, and a small allowance for communion-elements. The Crown is patron. There is no manse. There are three different places of worship, but only one church, which was formerly a Popish chapel. At two of the places of worship the minister preaches at the side of a hill when the weather is fair; when otherwise, he enters into one of the tenant's huts, with as many of the people as can follow him. The number of poor on the parish-roll is 15. There is no fund to provide for them, but what arises from the weekly collections, and the fines of delinquents, which together generally amount to between L. 4 and L. 5 yearly. There is a parochial school, where reading, writing, arithmetic, and Latin are taught. The salary and scholar's fees may amount to L. 22 annually. The number of scholars attending in winter will be about 60; in summer scarce the half. An additional school is much needed in the parish.

*Antiquities, Natural Curiosities, Language.*—In the parish are the remains of four Popish chapels, viz. one at Aisk, one at Kilbride, one at Kilmori, and one in the small island of Pabba. On the west side of the parish are the ruins of seven towers of a circular form, erected on rocks; every one of these towers are built in sight of one or more of the same. From the southmost of these towers are to be seen others in the parish of Sleat, and from these last, others on the opposite shore of Arisaig. On the east side of the parish are a number of tumuli, and in such of them as have been dug up were found urns full of ashes. There is a tradition



tradition that a battle was fought here by the Danes. In the district of the parish called Strathaird, are a number of caves. A man entered lately into one of them, with a lighted candle, in order to examine it, but could not proceed, by reason of its dampness, and the drops of water that fell from the top of it. In one of these caves Charles Steuart, the Pretender, lodged for some nights in 1746. In the highest part of the island of Scalpa there is a petrified rock of moss, in which are a variety of shells; and in many other places throughout the higher parts of the island, great quantities of shells are to be met with several feet under ground. In the small island of Pabba, formerly mentioned, are to be seen, in the rocks and stones in the shore, several petrified fish, of different sizes, generally indeed below ten inches; but there are eels of nearly double the length. Some appear whole, and others broken, and when struck forcibly with a stone or hammer, they often split in two, and the marks of the bones are visible in the rock. The language spoken here is the Gaelic, yet few of the names of places seem to be derived from it.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people in general are of the middle size. In a tolerable degree they enjoy the comforts of life. Their dress, diet, and lodging, however, stand still in need of amendment. It is the general opinion, that their condition would be ameliorated if they had longer leases, and greater encouragement for improvements. They much regret that their proprietors stay too short time among them, to obtain a full and true account of the real state of the people. The inhabitants, for want of a sufficient capital, are unable to prosecute the fishing to any extent. But if the proprietors would take the fish and black cattle in payment of the rents, or even procure good markets



kets for both, it would undoubtedly spur on the tenants to industry. Would not the bounties and premiums (exclusive of the fish) be of essential benefit to the Highlands, if the inhabitants could obtain them? Would not the money thus acquired be in part, at least, laid out in improving the country? Peat is the only fuel used here; a great part of the summer is wasted in digging and leading them home. The roads through the parish are very indifferent. There is but one inn in the parish, yet whisky, brought from Ferrintosh, is sold by the bottle in many places. If this practice is tolerated, there is danger that the people become poor, quarrelsome, and immoral. There are two tryfts for cattle held in the parish annually, on the last week of the months of May and July. There is one ferry (on the post-road from Inverness to this country) at Keil, the S. E. extremity of the parish. Salt is often here a scarce commodity. It has happened, oftener than once, that an ounce of salt was not to be had here, at the very time when the greatest shoals of herring entered the lochs; and a barrel of herring has sold fresh for 2 s. which, if salted, would have sold for 12 s. Some waste lands have lately been improved. Mr Macdonald, tacksmen of Scalpa, has given encouragement to a few families to settle on a part of his extensive farms, and this colony, from the assistance given them by that gentleman, and their own industry, are now in a thriving condition. The mode of dressing the corn to be ground by what is called *Gradan*, is here still in use. By this operation they save the trouble of threshing and kiln-drying the grain. Fire is set to the straw, and the flame and heat parches the grain; it is then made into meal on the *quern*. This meal looks very black, but tastes well enough, and is esteemed very wholesome. The whole of the work is performed by the women. The  
only



only apology given by themselves, for this mode of preparing the grain, is, that the quantity of grain which the generality have is very small, and many of them are at a great distance from a mill. The cattle do not want the straw, because they lie out all winter in good pasture, and as snow does not lie long on the ground, they can always have enough of food.

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## NUMBER XI.

## PARISH OF BOWDEN,

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TE-  
VIOTDALE, AND PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK),

*Drawn up by a Friend to Statistical Inquiries, from Ma-  
terials chiefly furnished by Mr ANDREW BLAIKIE,  
Tenant in Holydean, who has resided 35 Years in that  
Parish.*

*Name, Boundaries, and Extent.*

**I**N the charter granted by King David I. to the Abbey of Selkirk, mention is made of *Botbenden*, which seems to favour the conjecture of this parish being named after a *St Botben* or *Bodwin*, and the scite can still be pointed out of his tower near the village. Yet the name may be derived from a *den* or *dean* in the *bow* or curve of a small rivulet, which is descriptive of the place where the church is said to have once stood. It is bounded on the N. by Melrose parish; on the E. mostly by St Boswells, though partly also by Langnewton annexed to Ancrum; on the S. by Lilliesleaf; on the W. by Selkirk; and on the N. W.



by Galashiels. Its greatest length from E. to W. is 6 miles. Its greatest breadth from S. to N. is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles. At an average it may be about 4 by 3 miles. The whole parish having been measured, either for the division of run-rig lands, or for being let by the acre, is known to contain nearly 6700 acres \*.

*Surface, Soil, and Climate.*—The surface is much varied. One of the Eildon hills, and one half of another, are in this parish. From one broad and elevated base, three conical tops arise, which, from their situation in a flat country, more than from their height, are seen at a great distance. Some parts of them also being covered with a kind of red stone, without a pile of grafs, have a singular and striking appearance. Several little eminences and ridges run from W. to E. with small vallies of fine meadow between them, all abounding with springs of water, which, when collected, run into Tweed, about two miles to the eastward of this parish, except one or two streamlets which fall into Ale water, its southern boundary. In general, the whole parish is naturally grassy, except about 200 acres, including the higher parts of these ridges, which are inclined to broom or furze, and about the same quantity bearing a kind of stunted heath. About 3-4ths of the parish have been, at one time or another, under the plough. The other 1-4th consists of bog, moss, and plantations of fir and forest trees. Of these last there are too few, especially as they are profitable to the proprietor, as well as to the farmer, for shelter, and to the people for fuel. There is some old wood, but of no great extent. Two-thirds of the parish are inclosed mostly with ditch and hedges of thorns,

\* Here, and throughout the following account, the English acre is always meant, as is also the Teviotdale measure, which is precisely 1-5th more than the Linlithgow standard.



thorns, which thrive well when properly taken care of. The soil of far the greatest part is a white binding clay on a tilly bottom, which retains moisture, becomes hard in drought, and can only be laboured and sown to advantage when the season is neither too wet nor too dry. About 1-6th of it is well adapted to wheat; another 1-6th is sharp, lets water easily sink, is very manageable, and produces good turnips, corn, and grass. Most of the parish is, on the whole, as well suited to pasturage as to tillage, and will pay as well. The exposure in general is high and easterly, which, together with the clayey soil, renders the crops often late, precarious, and apt to suffer much from rainy harvests and early frosts. In the 1782, a great deal of corn was uncut at Martinmas, and several farmers, instead of paying their rents from their crops, were obliged to purchase grain. Many oats yielded that year no more than 3 stone of meal *per* boll.

*Farms, Rents, Heritors.*—The farms are very unequal, paying L. 400, L. 200, L. 100, L. 70, L. 60, and even so low as L. 10, and L. 8 Sterling of yearly rent in money, besides a few carriages, one half of the poors-rates, and one half of the schoolmaster's salary. The soil differing greatly in value, lands, in farms, are let at from 15 s. to 5 s. *per* acre. Some small fields near the villages of Middleham and Bowden are rented for convenience for L. 1, 10 s. *per* acre, while some tracts of outfield high lands do not fetch above 2 s. 6 s. The whole real rent of the parish may at present amount to L. 2300 Sterling. The valued rent is L. 8030, 11 s. Scots\*; of which the largest half belongs to the Duke of Roxburgh, his valuation being L. 4121, 11 s. Scots.

\* A new analysis of the valuation of the whole county reduces the valuation of this parish to L. 7930 : 10 : 10.



Scots. There are only three other considerable proprietors, all of whom occasionally reside, and about 50 small feuers in Bowden and Middleham, who pay of teind, feu, &c. to his Grace about 1-8th of the yearly value of their subjects\*.

*Cultivation, Manures, and Produce.*—There were formerly 26 ploughs in the parish, each drawn by 2 oxen, and 3, or at least 2 horses; and 10 or 12 drawn by 2 horses only. No oxen are now employed. Some attempts to work them by themselves are not likely to succeed; servants being prejudiced against them, and doing all in their power to prevent this practice from taking place. There are at present 44 ploughs, each drawn by 2 horses, and both driven and held by one man. The change has not contributed much to raise better crops, or to benefit the farmer. The English plough, with the broad or plate sock, is universally used; though some are returning occasionally to the old Scots plough, which is certainly preferable in stony or strong clay lands. Several mosses in the parish and neighbourhood, abounding with shell marl, have lately been drained. Those in the parish belong to the Duke of Roxburgh, and the marl is used only by his tenants; but in the neighbourhood, it is sold at 6 d. *per* cart drawn by one, and at 9 d. *per* cart drawn by two horses, and can be carried 6 or 7 miles to good advantage. Thirty of the one, or forty-five of the other, are laid on an acre of the sharp dry land. Strong clay lands require more. Lime is also brought from Mid Lothian, about 28 miles, at the rate of 12 s. *per* cart, containing nearly 3 bolls of shells, and used in the proportion of 6 carts to 25 of marl. Both contribute

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to

\* Their number is daily decreasing, the richer purchasing the properties of the poorer.



to raise excellent crops of corn and grass. Lime produces better grain, but marl answers best for grass, especially for pasture. After trying many varieties of every grain, the most approved are now white oats, barley bear, (so called to distinguish it from rough bear, or big); early pease, here called hot seed; and Kentish, or Cleaveland wheat. Very little rye is sown, and no flax but for family use. On about 1650 acres, about 1100 bolls of different grains are annually sown; nearly as follows, *viz.* 120 of wheat, 100 of pease, 750 of oats, and 130 of barley; which last is followed by a hay crop. There are besides 140 acres, yearly, in turnip; 50 in potatoes; and 160 in fallow. Turnips are generally succeeded by barley; potatoes sometimes by barley, but more commonly by oats; fallow partly by wheat and partly by oats; and lands, ploughed out of lee or pasture, are always sown with oats. After maintaining the inhabitants, the annual exports may be about 350 bolls of oat-meal, at L. 1, 5 s. *per* boll; 300 ditto of barley, at 18 s.; and 450 ditto of wheat, at L. 1, 2 s. amounting in all to L. 1202, 10 s. *per annum.*

*Horses, Black Cattle, Sheep, and Wool.*—There are 160 horses of different ages in the parish, one-fourth of which are too young for labour. The black cattle of all ages may be 540. About 90 are reared yearly, and about 50 are stall-fed for the butcher, which weigh at an average from 45 to 50 stone of 16 lb. Dutch weight\*. The cows of the same breed, when fattened, weigh about 36 stone. About 80 swine are annually fed, mostly by tradesmen. They are bought in England in October or November, when 3 or 4 months old, at 10 s. or 12 s. each; and after feeding  
for

\* The Dutch weight is always meant, when meal, grain, or butcher meat are spoken of. The Scotch weight, of 24 English lb. to the stone, is used for selling wool, cheese, butter, and hay.



for 4 months on the refuse of potatoes, and a little bruised oats or barley, they weigh 10 or 12 stone. Being killed so young, they are very fine food, and of great service to a family. The number of sheep is about 2300, mostly of the white-faced long-bodied kind, and weighing from 12 lb. to 14 lb. *per* quarter. Till of late, little attention was paid to the improvement of wool; but now the encouragement given by premiums, and the force of example, have, perhaps, carried the stock of sheep here to as great perfection in that respect as the climate and soil will admit. The wool has sold for 18 s. *per* stone. The common diseases of the sheep are the rot, a kind of consumption occasioned by overstocking the pastures, and by rainy seasons, especially a rainy autumn; and the *flurdy*, or water in the head, which attacks them when about a year old, chiefly in the months of April, May, and June; and is of so corrosive a nature as to perforate the skull into holes large enough to admit a pea or small bean. One sheep in 40 falls by this disease. Such as are affected by it become at first giddy, afterwards stupid, and seldom or never recover. No ewes are milked. The cheese and butter, made from cows milk, are mostly consumed in the parish, especially the latter; which is much used in *salving* the sheep, at the rate of from 4 lb. to 6 lb. to the Scotch pint of tar.

*Population.*—The population of this parish in 1755 amounted to 672 souls. At present (January 1794) the parish contains 217 families, and 860 persons; of whom there are,

Under 10 years of age,	-	-	223
Between 10 and 20,	-	-	189
Between 20 and 50,	-	-	321
Above 50,	-	-	127
			<hr/>
Total,	-	-	860

Of



Of these, 10 are above 80 years; and of these 10, 3 are 85, and 2 are upwards of 90.

The births, marriages, and burials, recorded in the parish-register, for the last 8 years, are as follow :

Years	1785,	Births	14	Marriages	6	Deaths	15
	1786,	15		9		18	
	1787,	19		10		15	
	1788,	13		5		10	
	1789,	14		6		10	
	1790,	16		5		7	
	1791,	11		6		7	
	1792,	9		4		13	
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	Total,	115		51		95	
	Average yearly,	14 $\frac{1}{4}$		6 $\frac{1}{4}$		11 $\frac{1}{4}$	

Most of the inhabitants are either feners, farmers, or cottagers employed by them, except the after mentioned, viz.

14 Wrights,	2 Shoemakers,
3 Coopers,	6 Grocers,
1 Wheelwright,	3 Blacksmiths,
13 Tailors,	1 Founder,
11 Masons,	2 Flaxdressers, and only
12 Weavers,	4 Alehouse-keepers.

About one third of the inhabitants are Burghers and Antiburghers. The latter have a meeting-house in the parish; the congregation of which, from this and other parishes, pays their minister L. 60 *per annum*. There are 4 corn-mills, each of which draws some multures; but that servitude is beginning to be abolished. A threshing machine is newly erected, which does a great deal of work; but when the prime cost, and interest thereon, tear and wear of every kind, the number of hands, and the extraordinary waste of horses, are all taken into the account, it may not be of great profit to the proprietor.

*Fuel*



**Fuel and Labour.**—There are no manufactures, owing to the dearth of fuel. Coals must be chiefly depended on; and they are brought 28 and 30 miles from Lothian, at the rate of 1 s. *per cwt.* Few or no peats are to be had; but the people are much benefited by weedings of plantations, which are frequently sold in the neighbourhood. Small feuers and tenants, who have not ground enough to employ themselves and horses, drive coal, lime, and marl for hire; the lime at 9 s. and the marl at 1 s. 4 d. *per* two-horse cart, or at 4 s. *per* day for a man, cart, and 2 horses. The wages of a man-servant, who eats in the house, are from L. 7 to L. 8 Sterling *per annum.* Maid-servants get L. 2, 10 s. and L. 2, 15 s. for the summer, and L. 1, 5 s. for the winter half-year. But a married farm-servant, who provides his own victuals, receives about the value of L. 14 or L. 15 Sterling in oats, barley, pease, flax, potatoe, and the maintenance of a cow through the year. Upon these wages he may bring up his family in a decent manner, and give his children a tolerable education, if he and his wife be industrious and frugal. In harvest, which commonly lasts about four weeks, a man gets L. 1, 6 s. and a woman L. 1, and their maintenance. At all other times, a man gets 1 s. 2 d. *per* day, and a woman 7 d. or 8 d. in summer \*, and a man 1 s. in winter, both furnishing their own victuals. Men working by the piece do at least 1-4th, if not 1-3d more than on day's wages; which makes their employers let as much work by the piece as they can. A mason earns 1 s. 8 d. and a carpenter 1 s. 6 d. *per* day without victuals. A carpenter gets 1 s. and a tailor 8 d. with their victuals. Servants wages are doubled within these 40 years.

*Diseases.*

\* Summer, with men on day's wages, begins on 13th February, and lasts 8 months.



*Diseases.*—No diseases are peculiar to this parish. Fevers, at an interval of perhaps 8 or 10 years, have proved mortal; and the natural small-pox carry off many children. Inoculation, that salutary mean of preserving them, is far from becoming general; the Seceders being much prejudiced against it, though in many families it has been attended with its usual success. Consumptions are not unfrequent; but, on the whole, the people enjoy good health.

*Ecclesiastical State, Schools.*—The church is old, long, narrow, and needs reparation. A vault adjoining to it is the burying-place of the ducal family of Roxburgh. The coffins are above ground; and some of them, by the dates upon them, have stood upwards of 200 years, and are still entire. An excellent manse and office-houses are newly finished. The stipend consists of 5 chalders of victual, Lin measure, 2-3ds of which are oat-meal, and 1-3d is barley, 400 merks in money, and 40 merks for communion-elements. The glebe is 16 English acres, about 3 of which are meadow. The Duke of Roxburgh is patron. The parochial schoolmaster at Bowden has a salary of L. 8, 6 s. 8 d. Sterling, and about 70 scholars. Of these, 30 read English at 1 s. *per* quarter, 25 both read and write at 1 s. 6 d. and about 15 commonly are taught arithmetic, book-keeping, and mathematics, on such terms as can be agreed upon. The schoolmaster has about L. 3 for collecting poor-rates, and a dwelling-house and garden worth L. 2, making in all about L. 30 yearly. There is also a school and a school-house at Middleham. The master has a salary of L. 3, and gets his victuals, during the teaching season, from the different families, according to the number of children they have at the school, which, at an average, is about 30, so that he cannot draw annually above L. 7 or L. 8 Sterling.

*Poor.*



*Poor.*—The number of poor on the roll for the last seven years has been 20. They are all maintained in their own houses, or boarded in other families. The annual sum expended upon them, may amount to L. 65 Sterling, which is levied at two different times in the year from the proprietors and tenants equally. This assessment is laid on by the proprietors; but the tenants have a vote in the distribution of it. The collections at church on Sundays are small, and do little more than pay the salaries of the precentor and beadle. There is only one beggar in the parish; but strolling poor from other places come among us at all seasons.

*Roads.*—The roads are pretty well taken care of by the Justices of the district. Formerly 1 s. 6 d. for each man, and 2 s. for each horse, were levied annually for statute-labour. By a late act of Parliament, it is now laid on according to the valued rents, and paid by the possessors. The management is vested in Justices of Peace and Commissioners of Supply, and other trustees. The utmost they can exact is 10 s. Sterling on the L. 100 Scots of valued rent, but they can make it as low as they please when the state of the roads allow.

*Birds and Beasts.*—There are plenty of partridges, some plovers, woodcocks, snipes, curlews, and other birds, both stationary and migratory, which are common in this part of Scotland. Little injury is done by birds of prey; but much was formerly sustained from foxes, to which the furze and brush-wood on the lower skirts of Eildon, both in this and Melrose parish, afford cover. Of late, however, their number has been diminished by the Noblemen and Gentlemen  
of



of the Caledonian Hunt, and others who keep hounds. Hares abound.

*Character of the People.*—The people in general are sober and industrious. Few of them engage in adventures or speculations, except in the line of farming, and even there with a prudent caution. Their divisions, in religious opinions, do not now occasion so great a want of cordial intercourse as formerly, and the prejudices of sects are daily dying away.

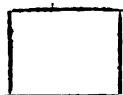
*Antiquities.*—The remains of a military road, with circular stations or camps, at the distance of two or three miles, supposed to be Roman, can be traced, running nearly N. through the centre and broadest part of the parish, about a mile to the westward of the church, from Beaulieu in the parish of Lilliesleaf to Caldsbiels in the parish of Gala-biels. In some places, all vestiges of it are destroyed by the plough; but in other places traces of it are still visible, in the form of a large ditch, about 20 feet wide; and in some spots, of two ditches of that width, at the distance of 50 feet. The camps or stations are all on eminences in view of each other; and different weapons, or instruments of war, have been dug up by people ploughing or ditching around them, as well as in the adjacent mosses.

There was, not long ago, a strong fortification, of its kind, at Holydean or Haliedean, once a residence of the family of Roxburgh. The court-yard, containing about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre, was surrounded by strong stone and lime walls, 4 feet thick, and 16 feet high, with slanting holes, between five freestones, about 30 feet from each other; from which an arrow or a musket could have been pointed in different directions. Upon an arched gateway in the front there was a strong iron gate. Within the court stood two strong towers,



towers, the one of 3, the other of 5 stories, consisting of 8 or 10 lodgable rooms, besides porters lodges, servants hall, vaulted cellars, bakehouses, &c. The roof and flooring, being all of the strongest oak, if kept in the state in which they then were, might have stood for a century. But during the minority of the present Duke, while he was abroad, without his knowledge, his then commissioner ordered this building to be mostly pulled down; merely for the sake of getting the freestones in them to build a large farm-house and appurtenances, at the distance of 3 miles, though the difficulty of separating these stones from the lime made them a dear purchase. Some of the vaults still remain, and are used by the tenant; and about 160 feet of the court wall are perfectly entire, which makes the demolition of the rest to be much regretted, as the whole building was stately and ornamental to the place, as well as venerable for its antiquity. One stone, preserved from the ruins, and now a lintel to the door of the farm-house at Holydean, has in the middle an unicorn's head and three stars, with this inscription on either side :

Feer God. Flee  
from sin mak  
to the lyfe



Everlasting  
to the end  
Dem Isbel Ker 1530

About 140 yards from the principal house on the top of a precipice hanging over a burn, there had been a chapel or place of worship, and a burying ground, as appears from a number of grave stones, handles of coffins, and pieces of human bones, which have been dug up from time to time. Hence probably has arisen the name *Holydean* or *Haliedean*.

The greatest curiosity, perhaps, of its kind in Britain, is a stone dike without lime, which incloses about 500 acres of this farm, and has stood more than 300 years, yet is still a tolerable fence. It has at first been 6 or 7 feet high,



with capstones. In an old tack, this inclosure is called, "*The great deer park of Haledean*," and was once full of wood; but it has long been subdivided, and all the trees cut down, except a few old birches.

Here, as well as in other parts of Scotland, many birch, fir, and oak trees have been found in the moor; some of them 3 feet in diameter, and several of the firs and oaks quite sound. They generally lie from 3 to 8 feet below the surface. Human bones also, and many horns of different animals, have been dug up, quite beyond the size of the largest to be any where seen at this time. How the former were laid there, and how the latter acquired their enormous size, leaves room for conjecture. Where they are found, the substance of the moss is condensed fog, to appearance as fresh and distinct as that upon old sea ground. This too may afford matter of curious speculation.

The family of Carr of Cavers deserves also to be mentioned, as one of the most ancient in the S. of Scotland. Their chief residence, for many generations, has been in the parish. George Carr, Esq; of Nisbet, a Lord of Session, was descended from a branch of this family. They are supposed to have sprung from Kerr of Fernihurst. One of their ancestors claimed the title of Lord Jedburgh; but from the different manner in which they spell their name, it seems probable, either that they are a distinct family, or a very old cadet.



NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF ANSTRUTHER EASTER,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF  
ST ANDREW'S).

*By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries.*

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*Situation, &c.*

**T**HIS parish is situated on the sea-coast, between Kilrennie and Anstruther Wester, (from which it is divided by a small river), in the Presbytery of St Andrew's.

The observations that occur in the Statistical Account of these two parishes, as to the soil, climate, fishing, price of provisions, equally apply to Anstruther Easter, and need not be repeated here.

*Church, Stipend, &c.*—Till the year 1636, the town of Anstruther, and the barony, was in the parish of Kilrennie; but though the church was at Kilrennie, the minister resided at Anstruther, and was styled the minister of that town. In the above mentioned year, the town of Easter  
Anstruther



Anstruther was erected into a separate charge, and a church built. The stipend arises from the tithes of the fish, a grant from his Majesty of part of the bishops rents, and some money mortified for that purpose, and may be reckoned between L. 70 and L. 80. Sir John Anstruther is the patron.

*Population.*—In 1744, the number was 1000; in 1764, it was 900; at present, it is supposed rather above 1000. The average of births 36; deaths 24.

*Port, Shipping, &c.*—In 1710, Anstruther, which formerly was a creek of the customhouse of Kirkcaldy, was made a port, and a customhouse established.

In 1753, a new key was built; and to defray the expence an act of Parliament was procured, laying a tax of ~~two pennies Scots upon every pint of ale brewed or sold in~~ the burgh. For some years of late the produce has not been more than a third of what it was at the beginning.

In 1768, the tonnage belonging to Anstruther Easter was 80 ton; it is now 1400.

Ship-building has been carried on for some years to a considerable extent.—There is a thread-manufacture.

*Poor.*—The poor are supported by the weekly collections; besides which the shipmasters have a large fund, from which they are able to make a decent provision for the widows and orphans of their Society. The trades have a fund for their poor.

*Longevity.*—In 1761, Robert Arnot, blacksmith, died, aged 99 years and some months; Mr James Nairne, late minister, 92; his son, the present incumbent, is 84.



NUMBER XIII.

UNITED PARISHES

OF

HOY AND GRÆMSAY,

(COUNTY OF ORKNEY, SYNOD OF KIRK WALL, AND  
PRESBYTERY OF CAIRSTONS).

*By the Rev. Mr ROBERT SANDS.*

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THE PARISH OF HOY

**D**OES not furnish much room for Statistical investigation, and the few observations which occur respecting it may be comprehended within narrow bounds. The origin of its name cannot now be ascertained.

*Situation and Extent.*—The parish is situated in the county of Orkney, Synod of Kirkwall, and Presbytery of Cairstons. It is of a triangular form, surrounded by the parishes of Walls to the south side; the parishes of Orphir, Stennis, and Stromness, upon the east and north side; and  
the



the Atlantic Ocean to the westward. The parish from N. W. to S. E. is about 9 or 10 miles long, and in general is about 6 miles broad. It may be called a very hilly or mountainous district. One of these hills in particular being so steep in many places of it, is almost inaccessible on account of rocks of an uncommon size. Some strangers with their mathematical instruments have computed the height of it, from the water's edge to the top, an English mile. There is neither pasture nor heath grows upon it, and it only serves as a fine mark for mariners or seafaring people to bring them into a safe harbour.

*Soil and Climate.*—The land or arable ground in this place is generally wet and spongy; the soil light, and better calculated for grass than for grain. The air is healthy, and the people generally long-lived; one person, in particular, who had resided in the parish from his youth, died some years ago at the advanced age of 100.

*Sheep.*—The principal circumstance for which this parish is remarkable is their sheep, if they were properly taken care of as in other countries to the southward; but no arguments will prevail with the country people of the parish to take better care of them, except their landlords would interpose their authority, which they will not. The sheep all run wild in these mountains, and are never got until they run them down with their dogs, and by that means they are much abused. Some of these sheep will run with three or four years wool upon them, and when hounded by their dogs, they run generally to the rocks, where there is no possibility of access to them. Many of their young lambs are devoured, and picked up by eagles and other birds of prey, which are very numerous in this place; and in the winter-season, when the sheep come down to the sea-side



to feed upon sea-weeds or ware, they are often carried away by the high tides that commonly take place in stormy weather. As to the number of their sheep, it would be no easy matter to ascertain, as the people are at great care and pains to conceal it; but by a general calculation they may be computed at 1000 or 1200.

*Productions.*—The quantity of grain produced here is very inconsiderable, and their farms are so very small, that when they have paid their rents to their landlords, which are collected commonly in kind, they have but a very scanty subsistence to support themselves and families, and are often reduced to buying of meal for their families. The only grain they sow is black oats and bear. The planting of potatoes, which of late has taken place among them, may in time be a great advantage.

*Rent of the Parish.*—The whole rent of this parish does not exceed L. 250 Sterling; and as the whole parish was feued off the bishoprick in former times, and that at the highest rate then paid, the whole rent paid to the proprietors must be very small. There are four heritors in the parish, and only one of them residing in it.

*State of the Church, &c.*—The whole of the church about nine years ago fell down of itself before the heritors would offer to make any reparation on it, and at last they rebuilt it, and that in a very slight manner, so that it is not above half finished. The present incumbent was settled as minister in April 1742; he was married, and had a very large family of children, once to the number of 22, but are now reduced to 4 sons and 2 daughters. The stipend amounts to 92 meils of malt, and 6 barrels of grease butter. The prices of these articles are very precarious,  
and



and at an average do not exceed betwixt L. 60 and L. 70 Sterling, besides a small glebe not exceeding L. 3 rent yearly. The manse is in a very ruinous condition, though built since the incumbency of the present minister, and that of the very worst materials that could possibly be got, so that now it is dangerous to walk upon the floors, as the whole of them are worm-eaten.

*Population.*—The population in 1755 was 520; of late it has considerably diminished. The inhabitants may now amount to 250. The number of burials do not exceed 3 or 4 each year; the births are from 6 to 8. There is no village in the parish.

*Antiquities.*—There are few antiquities in this parish worth mentioning; only there is a large stone, called the Dwarf Stone, which measures 32 feet in length, 16½ broad, 7 feet 5 inches in height, hollowed in the inside, and divided into three different apartments; in one end there is a bed, 5 feet 8 inches long, and 2 feet broad; and in the other end a small room, and in the middle part an area, where there has been a fire-place, and a hole at the top to let out the smoke. There are several beautiful glens among the hills, surrounded with very high rocks, and at the foot of these rocks a fine plain of grass, grown level as a bowling-green, where there are the finest echoes reverberating from one rock to another every syllable you express for some minutes; there is also in this parish a prospect of one of the richest lead mines that has been known. Mr Walter Stewart, a late proprietor of said place, employed a miner, a very skilful man in his business, who struck up about a ton weight of the ore, which Mr Stewart carried to Leith, and gave to Dr Black, Professor of Chemistry, who made an assay of it; and his report was, that be-  
sides



sides the lead, he could extract 46 ounces of silver out of each ton of ore.

*Fuel.*—The principal disadvantage, notwithstanding the great and high mountains we have in this parish, is the scarcity of fuel, many of the inhabitants being obliged to go a great way out of the parish among these hills, to cut, win, and carry their peats down to the sea-shores, where next they are obliged to carry them in their boats by water to a very great distance. The present incumbent has been obliged to carry his peats by water during all the years of his incumbency for 5 or 6 miles, which is attended with a great expence upon so small a stipend.

*Prices of Provisions.*—The prices of viviers in this parish, and in the neighbourhood, has turned out so high, even to triple value of most articles more than it was at the present incumbent's being settled here, owing chiefly to its being in the neighbourhood of Stromness, where there is a fine harbour, and much frequented by shipping, so that when come off a long voyage, and out of provision, the small petty merchants in Stromness come over here, and buy up sheep, hogs, and cattle at any price, as they are sure to make considerable profits by the hands of these strangers.

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#### THE PARISH OF GRÆMSAY

Is but a very small island, a mile and an half in length, and a mile in breadth, consisting of 35 or 36 families, in very small farms, where the cure was used to be served by the minister of Hoy every third Sabbath; but the small kirk or meeting-place there threatened to fall down of it-



self, the minister applied to the Presbytery for a visitation, and by the oaths of sufficient workmen of each craft, got it declared ruinous, and it still continues so, which obliged the minister to leave the place, after he had served 36 years and upwards. It is also observable, and very singular, that it pays neither stipend, nor has any glebe.

*Population.*—The population of the parish is much the same as it was 50 years ago. Its inhabitants may now amount to about 160; the number of burials do not exceed 3 or 4 each year; the births about 8 or 10 yearly. There is no village in the island.

*Fuel.*—The principal disadvantage under which this parish labours, is the scarcity of fuel. The common people burn turf or peat, which they are obliged to carry from Hoy and other places.

*Schools.*—There are no schools in either of the parishes of Hoy or Græmsay, owing to the proprietors, who cannot be prevailed upon to settle a parochial school, and for that reason, the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge have for some years past withdrawn their charity schools; and notwithstanding the minister of the place applied to the commissioners of the county to interpose their authority, which he did by petition, and under form of instrument above 30 years ago, yet to this day he never got any deliverance upon it; and now the minister, being reduced by old age and infirmities, is not in condition to go about such matters.

*Rent.*—The land-rent of the island is computed at L. 100 Sterling a year, besides casualties equal to one half more.



## NUMBER XIV.

## PARISH OF WESTRAY,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ORKNEY, PRESBYTERY OF  
NORTH ISLES.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES IZAT, Minister.*

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*.Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Westray comprehends in it the islands of Westray and Papa Westray; these islands are situated towards the N. and lie in the extremity of the country on that side: Westray, the largest, is distant from Kirkwall, the borough town, about the space of 20 miles. The lesser island, Papa Westray, lying to the N. of Westray, will be distant from Kirkwall 24 miles. The island of Westray is of an irregular form, being indented with bays and jutting out points of land. This island lies in a direction from E. to W. being in length between 9 and 10 miles English; towards the west end, it stretches out into a considerable breadth, being about 6 English miles over in that part; there is likewise a ridge of hills on the western extremity of this island, of a considerable height, called



called Fitty and Gallo, stretching from S. to N. in a line of between 3 and 4 miles. This island towards the E. and a little removed from Fitty and Gallo hills, is about 2 English miles over; but about the middle space of the island, the breadth is scarcely an English mile over. From guess of the eye, there does not appear to be above 1-8th part of the surface of this island under cultivation.

The island of Papa Westray, lies on the north side of Westray, and is separated from it by a sound, or ferry, between 2 and 3 miles over. The length of this island is between 3 and 4 English miles, of an oval form, and lies in a direction from N. to S. being about an English mile in breadth in most places. This is a very fertile island, containing some of the best pasture and arable lands in the whole country; and, to appearance, there is a greater proportion of this island under cultivation than that of the island of Westray.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Agriculture in this parish, as well as in the other parts of the county of Orkney, is carried on in the same way that it has been done for many years past. The fields are all open, without inclosures, neither are there any green crops raised here, such as hay, turnip, &c.; the people here now begin to plant potatoes, and this they do to advantage, both with respect to produce, and the improvement of the ground. There is one gentleman in the island of Westray, who sows a considerable quantity of pease yearly, both of the white and gray kind; the only produce is straw for his horses, the grain seldom or ever comes to any perfection. The farmer here generally uses a plough with one stilt, much in the form of the old Roman plough. The only rotation of crops is small grey oats and bear, commonly called big; the time of sowing the  
oats



oats is in the month of March, and sometimes they sow this grain in the end of February, if the season is favourable. The only manure here is sea-weed or ware, with the help of what house-dung they can produce. The seaweed is no doubt a very rich and productive manure, but is of little use to the ground but for the present crop. This they lay on the fields which had produced oats the preceding season, and this is done immediately after harvest, and during the winter, as often as the wind and tides bring this manure ashore. In the spring season, after the oats are sown, the farmer gives the *wared* land one ploughing, which they call their fallow. Sometimes, when the ware does not come ashore in the winter season, it comes at the time of their fallow, which obliges the farmer to put it on the land immediately from the strand. This manure does not answer so well for moist soils as the winter ware, yet it generally answers pretty well. When the ware here is got in the proper season, it is carried up from the strand, and laid in heaps on the banks, and there it is allowed to lie till it acquires a considerable degree of heat or fermentation; this is reckoned a good preparation for this kind of manure, and in this way is most productive. There is a variety of soils in this parish, and they differ very much from one another in the same corner. There is a good deal of the land composed of a rich black mould; some again consisting of black mould with a mixture of sand; in other parts, clay mixed with sand; in some places, black mould mixed with peat-moss; and finally, there is much land consisting of nothing but pure sand; when plenty of good ware is laid on such soil as this, it will yield a tolerable crop. The ground here is generally of a free and light nature, and cannot bear much labouring. The farmer gives the bare land one ploughing only after the fallow, at the time he sows the seed, the soil being so light and free, it requires



requires very little of the harrow, which instrument is generally made with wooden teeth. In some places, it is true, the better and more substantial farmers, and where the soil is stronger, begin now to use the iron-teethed harrow. However, it may be depended upon as a certain fact, that agriculture will only be a secondary consideration in this country, while kelp continues to sell at any tolerable price; and in this the landholders cannot be blamed, as the kelp yields them ready and certain profits. Many of the lands in Orkney, which are burdened with high superiorities, without this valuable article of kelp, would have long ago been in the hands of the superior.

*Churches, &c.*—There are three churches or places of worship in this parish, two in the island of Westray, one of which is called St Mary's, and the other Cross Kirk; St Mary's kirk is distant from the manse above 4 English miles; the other, Cross Kirk, is distant 3 miles, and the kirk or place of worship in the island of Papa Westray, is distant from the manse a space of between 8 and 9 English miles. The minister preaches in these different parts of worship by rotation, at least when the weather permits him to pass the ferry to Papa Westray. It must appear pretty singular, that all these places of worship are placed at such a distance from the manse; the space between the manse and the place of worship in the island of Papa Westray, is a journey which can scarcely be accomplished in the space of two hours.

This charge might have been rendered more commodious for the minister, and central for the people, by removing the manse from its present situation. But though the present incumbent petitioned the heritors for this purpose, they would not agree to any proposal of this kind. The present incumbent could not afford to lay out money  
in



in a process of this kind, without public aid, by which he has hitherto not profited; and therefore judged it more eligible for himself to put up with his present situation, than involve himself in a law-suit, which might be attended with an expence far above his circumstances to bear. It may almost indeed be looked upon as a problem why the manse should be placed at such a distance from the places of worship. In answer to this, prior to, and during the incumbency of Mr William Blaw, who was ordained to this charge some time after the Revolution, there was one of the places of worship only one mile distant from the manse. But this house was suffered to go to ruin in the time of Mr Blaw's incumbency, and was never after repaired or rebuilt to any of the present incumbent's two predecessors. For a considerable time there was only one place of worship in the island of Westray, and this too becoming ruinous in the last incumbent's time, the heritors at last thought of building a central church for the whole island; but however beneficial to the heritors, minister, and people, this scheme was entirely dropped, and upon this the heritors resolved to have two places of worship as formerly, to the great inconveniency both of the minister and people.

*Stipend.*—State of the minister's stipend in Westray and Papa Westray, at the conversion of L. 2 Scots *per* miel of bear, on the bear pundler of Orkney, L. 4 Scots *per* miel of malt, and L. 7, 4 s. Scots *per* miel of oat-meal, and L. 3q Scots *per* barrel of butter :

To 36 miels two settins of bear, and in small parcels, in the name of vicarage bear teind,				-	L. 73	0	0
To 4 miels 2 settins teind malt,				-	16	13	4
To 4 miels teind oat-meal,				-	28	16	0
					<hr/>		
Carried over,					L. 118	9	4



	Brought over,	L. 118	9	4
To 2 barrels and a half teind butter,		75	0	0
To sheep teind, computed to be	-	33	0	0
To lamb teind,	-	18	7	0
To calf teind,	-	3	12	0
To money stipend,	-	300	0	0
<hr/>				
		L. 548	8	4

This is the amount of the stipend of Westray, as given in by the present incumbent's predecessor to the Court of Session, as far back as the year 1773, when he commenced a process of augmentation against the heritors of Westray; and in the month of August 1777, he obtained from the Court a decret of modification, decerning and ordaining the stipend of Westray and Papa Westray to have been for crop and year of God 1773, since syne and in time coming, 36 miels 3 settins of bear, 4 miels 2 settins of malt, 4 meils oat-meal, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  barrels of butter, with L. 551 : 17 : 4 Scots, and L. 33 : 6 : 8 Scots, for furnishing the communion-elements. It appears, therefore, by this state, that the stipend of Westray, by the above decree of modification, is L. 778 : 13 : 4 Scots, and reckoning along with this the value of the glebes, and a little kelp burnt by the minister, the stipend of Westray may be about L. 70 Sterling *communibus annis*. But after all this account of stipend, it must be understood, that there is no decret of locality past on the decret of modification, in which case, all this augmentation, which amounts to L. 19 : 3 : 9 Sterling *per annum*, remains in the heritors hands, ten years of which belong to the present incumbent, and the other ten years augmentation to the last incumbent's heirs. From the above account, the stipend of Westray is in a very ruinous dilapidated state at present, nor will it be easy for the present



sent incumbent to get the stipend put upon a better footing, without the assistance of the public funds of the Church.

*Ministers Names, who in succession have filled the charge in the parish of Westray since the Revolution.*—Mr William Blaw, the first settled here after that period, there is no record of the date of his settlement or death. Mr Andrew Cowan, settled 27th June 1735, died 28th July 1760. Mr Nicol Spence, settled 22d July 1761, died 25th April 1783: And Mr James Izat, settled 15th April 1784.

*Poor.*—The number of poor on the roll in the islands of Westray and Papa Westray are 60 and upwards, for the support of which the money arising from collections, fines, &c. is by no means adequate. All the money collected in this way, good and bad, does not exceed L. 9 Sterling yearly, from which must be deducted one third part at least for bad copper, and out of the remaining small sum, the precentor and kirk-officer are paid their respective salaries. It may be a subject of enquiry then, by what means are such a numerous poor supported? Surely, at this rate, one should think that they must be in a very deplorable condition. They are supplied from the families who are in any kind of tolerable circumstances. Such of the poor who are able to come out, go from house to house; those again who are confined by old age, infirmity, or distress of any kind, employ some friend, neighbour, or acquaintance, to ask alms for them; but to such as have no body to procure any thing for them in this way, the necessaries of life are sent to their own houses. It is a consideration, indeed, which is very much to the credit and honour of this place, that by such a mode the poor are tolerably provided for; at the same time, it is no doubt a very considerable burden on the inhabitants.



After all, the minister of Westray is very sensible, that if any plan could be adopted here for establishing a poor rate, this would lay the burden of the poor more equally on the inhabitants of any parish, and more especially on the rich landholders, who are unquestionably obliged to assess themselves for the support of the poor, when the public funds of a parish are insufficient for this purpose.

*Schools, &c.*—With regard to the state of this parish as to a school or schools for the education of youth, and their instruction in Christian knowledge, it has been in a very destitute condition for many years past. In the year 1792, there was a teacher first sent from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge; but he, upon obtaining a better place in his own country, viz the county of Moray, left this parish a little before Whitsunday last. By another application to the Society for the continuance of their bounty, there is some prospect of a school being again established in this place, upon the same bounty, at Whitsunday first. It must naturally occur to every thinking and well-disposed mind, that the numerous youth in this place must be in a very destitute condition for want of education, when they grow up to men and womens estate without being taught to read. In a list of the number of souls, which was accurately taken up in this parish two years ago, the number of children at ten years and under amounted to 360. What is to be expected from children thus trained up in ignorance, and deprived of the means of religious knowledge in their youth? It is too obvious to make any comment upon it. This is an evil which will not be easily removed, without the interposition of public aid, as many of the inhabitants are in very poor and indigent circumstances.

*Population.*



*Population, &c.*—According to Dr Webster, the number of souls in 1755 was 1290. The number at present (1793) in the parish of Westray, comprehending the islands of Westray, and Papa Westray, with the proportion of males and females, and number of houses, are as follow :

Houses.	Males.	Females.	Total.
205	759	870	1629

Births and Baptisms within the parish of Westray, since the 15th April 1784 :

Year.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1784,	14	16	30
1785,	19	10	29
1786,	13	21	34
1787,	21	14	35
1788,	23	12	35
1789,	21	14	35
1790,	16	17	33
1791,	19	16	35
1792,	17	14	31
1793,	28	27	55
	<hr/> 191	<hr/> 161	<hr/> 352

Marriages in the parish of Westray since the 9th May 1784:

Year.	Marriages.	Year.	Marriages.
1784,	4	Brought over,	49
1785,	4	1790,	15
1786,	11	1791,	4
1787,	4	1792,	18
1788,	14	1793,	16
1789,	12		<hr/>
—		Total,	102

Carried over, 49

*Rental*



*Rental of the Island of Westray, &c.*

Paid to the heritors of real rent,	-	L. 303	0	0
To rent, fees, and teind paid to Sir Thomas Dundas, the superior,	-	180	0	0
Real rent to the proprietor of the island of Papa Westray,	-	70	0	0
To Sir Thomas Dundas, feu and teind,	-	48	0	0
		<hr/>		
Total,	-	L. 603	0	0

Quantity of kelp burnt yearly in Westray,	280 tons.
In the island of Papa Westray,	- 70
	<hr/>
Total,	- 350 tons.

Number of ploughs in the island of Westray, one half with four horses, the other half with three,	-	144
Ploughs in Papa Westray,	-	24
Total,	-	168

Number of oxen-carts in Westray, with two oxen in the cart, employed in manuring the land, &c.	45
In Papa Westray, - - -	5
Total - - -	<hr/> 50

Number of boats, horses, horned cattle, sheep, and swine in parish of Westray :

Boats,	-	82	Sheep,	-	1843
Horses,	-	825	Swine,	-	417
Horned cattle	1074				

It will be necessary to observe under this article, that the boats mentioned in the above list are not properly fishing-boats. There are none in this parish who earn their bread



bread by fishing. It is true, these boats sometimes go to sea for the purpose of fishing cod, cooths, and tibrics, which are the small or young cooths. All the fish the people take in this way are consumed in their own families; and all the fish they can catch are but a small pittance for their support. Fishing on this coast would be a very precarious business; there has scarcely been taken here, for years past, fish of any kind. The above boats are necessarily kept by the people for passing ferries, and thereby transporting hither and thither whatever the inhabitants of these islands have occasion for.

*Fisbery, &c.*—There is cod-fishing, though very inconsiderable, both on the south and north side of Westray; but the north sea is by far the best fishing ground, where, in some particular seasons, there has been both cod and ling taken, though not for years past, in any considerable quantities.

Cooths are a species of fish, which in this country they call grey fish. The proper season for taking these fish commences about the middle of June, and continues till the month of August, and sometimes longer, if the weather be favourable.

The time of fishing the young cooths or tibricks, begins about the middle of August, and continues through the winter, if the season is favourable.

There is another species of fish caught here, called the dog-fish, about the size of a middling cod, with a large head; they are but a coarse kind of fish; what renders them valuable is, that their livers yield a goodly quantity of the very best oil. The season for catching these fish is the same with that of the cooths.

With regard to the rapidity of the tides, currents, and soundings among the islands, the best information on this  
head



head is to be got from Mr Murdoch Mackenzie's draughts, where all these particulars are laid down in the most accurate manner.

*Mills.*—In Westray there are three water-mills and one wind-mill. In Papa Westray, one water-mill.

*Number of Tradesmen of different kinds in the Parish of Westray.*

Weavers	-	23	Boatbuilders,	5
Shoemakers*,	-	5	Blacksmiths,	2
Tailors,	-	5	Merchants,	4
Wrights,	-	3	In all,	47

*Shipping, &c.*—Two sloops of between 70 and 80 tons burden belong to the island of Westray. These vessels for the most part are employed in carrying kelp to the market.

On the N. and W. of the island of Westray, there is one good secure harbour, called Pyrawall; this harbour can admit vessels only of a small burden.

*Antiquities.*—At the head of the bay which forms the harbour stands a stately Gothic ruin, called the castle of Noltland, part of which has never been finished. This house is built at a small distance from the shore, and stands on an eminence gently declining towards the sea. The face of the ground between this ruin and the sea is a beautiful green, covered with the richest pasture in the summer season.

\* Perhaps it may appear pretty odd that the list of shoemakers is so small, and that there is no mention of coopers. The reason is this, that many in the parish can make shoes of a coarser kind, yet they do not live by this business; so in like manner there are several, who can work in the cooper business, though none do it solely for their subsistence.



season. There is a traditionary account here, that this house was intended as a place of retreat for Mary Queen of Scots and Bothwell from the then prevailing disturbances; but upon Mary and Bothwell's defeat, the castle of Noltland, and some adjoining lands, were granted to a gentleman of the name of Balfour, who put the Balfour's arms on this house. This gentleman was either a brother, or a near relation of a Sir James Balfour, who was Governor of the Castle of Edinburgh at that time. Though this castle of Noltland, and the adjoining lands, are now the property of another family, yet Mr John Balfour of Trenaby, the descendent and representative of the above proprietors of Noltland, has still a considerable property in Westray.

In several places along the shores of the island of Westray you meet with graves, which are certainly of a very ancient date. On the north west shore of this island, and not far from the house of Trenaby, some of these graves were opened a few years ago, and among the ashes were found one or two short sabres or swords, which were perfectly entire as to the shape, though much consumed with rust. There was also found at the same time, in one of these graves, a small drinking vessel, though it could not be easily distinguished of what materials it was made. When or how these bodies came to be lodged in this place, at such a distance from the common place of interment, is not easy to conjecture. But when speaking of these things, the minister of Westray must take notice, that there are two remarkable graves by the sea-shore, at half an English mile from the manse. The one of these graves is large, the other of a small size; the latter, which is at some distance from the larger grave, is placed within a small circle of stones, which is equal with the surface of the grave. The position of these graves is from N. to S. with four grey stones set on edge, and placed at equal distances from one another,



another, and in a cross direction from the one end of the grave to the other. These graves are certainly of very great antiquity, and perfectly agree with Ossian and Fin-gal's description; which, as above, is four grey stones placed on edge and across the grave from head to foot, and at equal distances from one another. That these places are sepulchres of the dead, there can be no doubt; the minister of Westray saw on this same ground (which consists entirely of sand) different human bones, and particularly a skull, pretty entire.

*Fuel.*—There is only one peat moss in the island of Westray, and none other in the parish; this is the exclusive property of one heritor, who a few years ago has prohibited almost all the inhabitants from the benefit of this moss, excepting his own tenants. Neither can this necessary article be procured from any of the neighbouring islands, the proprietors there being equally tenacious of their property, and, at the same time, under some apprehensions of these mosses wearing out, neither money nor interest can prevail with them to serve the inhabitants of Westray with an article so much needed. This is a most distressing consideration to a great number of the inhabitants of Westray; and indeed it appears simply impossible for a great many of these to subsist, unless a supply of coal be henceforth imported.



NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF GLENELG,

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, AND  
PRESBYTERY OF LOHCARRON),

*By the Rev. Mr COLIN MACIVER, Minister.*

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*Origin of the Name.*

**G**LENELG, the ancient and modern name, is supposed to be made up of the Gaelic words, *glen*, signifying a valey, and *seilg*, hunting; or *glen*, a valley, and *elid*, a roe.

*Situation, Extent, and Surface.*—The parish lies in the County of Inverness, Synod to which it gives its name, and presbytery of Lochcarron. It is divided into three districts: 1<sup>st</sup>, Glenelg, where the church and manse are situated, the property of Colonel Macleod of Macleod; 2<sup>d</sup>, Knowdort, separated from Glenelg by an arm of the sea called Lochurn, the property of Macdonells of Glengarry and Scothouse; 3<sup>d</sup>, North-morrer, separated from Know-



dort by another arm of the sea, called Lochneavis, the property of the family of Lovat. The parish may be supposed to extend from N. to S. about 20 miles, and the same number of miles from E. to W. It is bounded on the N. E. and E. by the parish of Glensheal, county of Ross, a ridge of hills making the division; on the S. E. and S. by the out-skirts of the countries of Glengarry and Lochaber; on the S. W. by the fresh water lake called Loch-morrort, this lake dividing the parish of Ardnmorechuan from that of Glenelg; and on the N. W. by the navigable and much frequented sound that separates the island of Sky from the continent of Great Britain.

In the district of Glenelg there are two vallies, through each of which a river runs; the inhabitants reside in separate villages on each side of the rivers; their arable land extending along the banks, and on the declivity of the hills; some of them also dwell on Lochurn-side. In this district the soil is good; part of a deep black loam, and part of a sandy gravel, formerly the bed of the rivers, yielding crops of potatoes and oats, and the hills afford good pasture for cattle. In Knowdort the inhabitants dwell in villages bordering on the sea, along the sides of Lochurn and Lochneavis; here the soil is in general light, yielding crops of barley, oats, and potatoes. The hills, though high, are mostly green to the top, and afford excellent pasture for all kinds of cattle. North-morrort is rocky and mountainous, mostly adapted for cattle.

*Air and Climate.*—The air is moist, the rains being frequent, as the wind mostly blows from the S. and W.; notwithstanding, the people are healthy. The constant but moderate exercise, which is necessary for herding the cattle, and the sea-air enjoyed during the fishing-seasons, are favourable to health. There are at present in the district  
of



of Glenelg 63 persons from the age of 70 to 80 and upwards, as may be seen from the following state of the population, as ascertained in the year 1793.

*Population, &c.*

Males, - - -	635	Weavers and weaver-	
Females, - - -	651	esses, - - -	25
	—	Tailors, - - -	8
Total inhabitants,	1286	Clergyman, - - -	1
Supposed to emigrate		Schoolmasters, - - -	2
from the year 1770		Merchant, - - -	1
to 1774, - - -	160	Millers, - - -	2
Emigrated in 1785,	14	Innkeeper, - - -	1
Ditto in 1787, - - -	10		
Ditto in 1793, - - -	130	In the district of Knowdort.	
Ann. average of births,	38	Protestants, - - -	150
Ditto of marriages,	12	Protestant missionary,	1
Heads of families,	178	Papists, - - -	850
Under 10 years old,	401	Priest, - - -	1
Between 10 and 20,	232	Surgeon, - - -	1
— 20 and 50,	456	Emigrated from Know-	
— 50 and 70,	134	dort from the year	
From 70 and upwards,	63	1770 to 1793,	800
Smiths, - - -	2	Papists in North-morrer,	460
Wrights, - - -	2	Priest, - - -	1
Total inhabitants in Glenelg,			1286
Ditto in Knowdort,			1000
Ditto in North-morrer,			460
Inhabitants of the whole parish,			2746
Emigrated at different periods from Glenelg, (sup-			
posed)			324
Ditto from Knowdort,			800
The return to Dr Webster,			1816
			Seed-



*Seed-time and Harvest.*—The oats are commonly sown in the latter end of March and beginning of April; immediately thereafter the potatoes are planted, and then the barley. The hay-harvest commences the latter end of July and beginning of August, mostly raised from meadow ground; the barley and oats are cut down in September and October; but owing to the deluges of rain that too often fall about this season of the year, the hay as well as other crops are often not secured till November. Grazing seems to be the only kind of farming for which this country is adapted; from necessity, and not choice, agriculture is carried on; the frequent rains, together with the inundations of the rivers, prove so destructive as to render the crops sometimes insipid and useless; but the price of meal, which is considerably advanced since the late corn-bill passed in Parliament, will still urge them to continue their old method of farming with all its disadvantages, it being impossible to purchase the quantity required at such exorbitant prices. In the most favourable seasons, the crops raised are barely sufficient for the maintenance of their families during three-fourths of the year; and in summer, the supplies from other markets are always scanty and precarious, owing to the tedious navigation from the east of Scotland, and the impracticability of land-carriage over a hilly district, more than 50 computed miles in length.

*Black Cattle and Sheep.*—The cows in this parish are of a good kind, well shaped and piled, and being seldom housed, very hardy; and those reared on the larger farms are perhaps equal to most stocks on the west coast, particular attention being paid by the farmers in keeping handsome and proper bulls; but they justly complain, that the prices fetched are not equal to the expence and pains taken in rearing them: such cattle, when sold in parcels, give from



L. 3, 10s. to L. 4 Sterling; and those sold by the lower class of tenants fetch from two to three guineas each. The estate of Scothouse, as also a great part of Glengarry's property, together with one farm on Macleod's estate, are mostly laid out in sheep-walks; the sheep are of the black-faced kind, and are thought to be good, as the wethers of three years old, reared on two of the farms, have hitherto given from 15s. to 16s. each at an average. The white wool sells from 6s. to 8s. and the tared wool from 4s. to 6s. the stone. The quantity sold is supposed to be upwards of 1500 stones, Greenock, Dumbarton, and Liverpool, being the ports to which it is carried; and some of it also disposed of to the country people. Emigration is thought to be owing in a great measure to the introduction of sheep, as one man often rents a farm where formerly many families lived comfortably; and if the rage for this mode of farming goes on with the same rapidity it has done for some years back, it is to be apprehended emigration will still increase. But this is not solely the cause; the high rents demanded by landlords, the increase of population, and the flattering accounts received from their friends in America, do also contribute to the evil.

*Fish.*—Skate, ling, and cod are to be got along the coast of the parish, but sythe or pollock is caught in the greatest abundance, which in summer is chiefly the support of the poor people. The herring-fishing deserves to be particularly mentioned, as in Lochurn they make their appearance so early as July, and continue from that period to the middle of autumn. Here the buffes from the frith of Clyde commonly assemble first, besides a vast number of boats, which crowd together from the neighbouring parishes and isles adjacent. It is computed for some years back 30,000 barrels have been annually caught in this loch; but the want of salt



salt prevents the natives from turning to advantage this bounty of Providence, which from their local situation they might otherwise do; at present, they are content with fishing a barrel or two to help the maintenance of their families. Certainly it must be an impolitic law that imposes so high a duty on one of the most necessary articles of consumption in life.

*Birds, and wild Animals.*—The migratory birds are, the swallow, the cuckoo, the field-fare, and wood-cock. The birds of prey are the eagle, the raven, and grey crow, with three species of the hawk, and two of the kite. The game birds are, the tarmargan, grouse, black-cock, snipe, heath-hen, with a few partridge. The aquatic birds are such as are common on the west coast. The deer and roe still frequent the hills and woods on Lochurn-side; the mountain hare, together with the fox, the badger, and weasel, are natives of this country; and the amphibious animals are the seal and otter.

*Tides.*—The tides run very strong, both in Lochurn and Lochneavis; but the most remarkable current in this parish, or perhaps in all the west coast, is to be seen at *Kylreea*, the name of the sound that separates Sky from the main land; at spring-tides it runs so rapidly as to render it impossible for any vessel to pass through with a fresh breeze, and the wind never so favourable. Mackenzie, in his chart, reckons its velocity equal to nine miles an hour. Over this sound the black cattle annually driven to market from Sky; and part of the Long-island are made to swim; and though the current is so very strong, yet few accidents happen. The number cannot be exactly ascertained, but in general they may be reckoned about 2000.

*Antiquities.*



*Antiquities.*—There have been many castles or round towers in this parish, two of which are yet pretty entire, and are much visited by travellers. There are various opinions respecting the use they were intended for; but the one given by the late learned Dr Macpherson of Slate, in his *Antiquities of Scotland*, seems to be the most probable. There is also situated on an eminence above the manse the remains of an old fortification, of which Mr Pennant takes notice in his *Tour*; besides, there is still to be seen on the top of a rock, not far from the sea, the foundation of an old building made up of stone and lime, and yet there is no tradition concerning it. There are some tumuli or barrows; one of them being opened up not many years ago, there was found in it an urn, containing as is supposed the ashes of some ancient warrior.

*Barracks.*—In the year 1722, shortly after the battle of Glenheal, Government thought it necessary to erect a small fortification on the west coast, and pitched on a spot of ground in this parish as a proper situation, being in the direct line from Fort Augustus to the island of Sky. From that period till after the 1745, there were commonly one or two companies of foot quartered there; but since, a smaller command was deemed sufficient; and for 20 years back there have been only a serjeant or corporal, with a few privates. Of the house that was formerly appropriated for the use of the soldiers, the skeleton only remains, but the officers barracks are still habitable.

*Church.*—The living of this parish is L. 55 : 17 : 7½; 46 bolls of oat-meal, 9 stones of Dutch weight to the boll, which at an average may be valued at L. 41, 8s. and 12 bolls bear, at the conversion of 10 marks Scots *per* boll; besides a small farm annexed to the church, which may be valued,



valued, including the glebe, at L. 12, so that the value of the whole living amounts to L. 115 : 18 : 11½. The present minister was admitted in the year 1782, is married, and has five children, three sons and two daughters. His predecessors in office were Messrs Donald Macleod, Murdoch Macleod, and John Morrison. The church is situated near the sea, and is in tolerable good order. The manse, by being built on an eminence, is much exposed to the westerly winds; and though repaired in the year 1785, is far from being at present in a sufficient state. Colonel Macleod of Macleod is patron of the parish.

*School.*—The school-house stands at the distance of a short mile from the church. During the summer, the number of scholars that attend may be about 45. The salary is 300 merks Scots, paid by the Laird of Macleod and the tenants of his estate; the other districts were never cessed with any proportion; the emoluments arising to the school-master are trifling, so that his income will not much exceed L. 20 Sterling. It is melancholy to think, that in every part of Scotland so little attention should be paid to the most useful members of society. In this district there is a school, solely at the expence of the inhabitants, who send their children to it; the number of boys and girls that attend are 38. In Knowdort, there is one of the Society schools; the teacher has a salary of L. 12 Sterling allowed him; and scholars are from 30 to 40 in number.

*Poor.*—The number of poor on the roll of this parish at present is 31; they seldom or ever travel to beg elsewhere; are supported chiefly by the inhabitants, only in summer they receive a small supply in meal from the funds collected upon Sundays, which at an average come to L. 7 or L. 8 Sterling a-year.



*Fuel.*—The fuel made use of in this parish is peats, which are seldom good, owing to the rainy seasons, and the moss being at a distance from their dwelling-houses, so much time, labour, and expence is lost in securing them, that it is a matter of doubt whether coals be not cheaper. Though they have not yet availed themselves of the liberality of Parliament in taking the duty off coal, it is probable they will soon find it their interest to import it.

*Character of the Inhabitants.*—The tacksmen of this parish are very respectable, both with regard to information and propriety of conduct, they live comfortably, and are hospitable to strangers; the lower class of tenants are sober and strictly honest, and by no means deficient in charity to the poor. If a manufacture for coarse cloths on a small scale was established in a village lately planned out by the Laird of Macleod, it could not fail of succeeding and employing many idle hands. The raw materials are to be had in the parish, and can be conveyed by water from each shepherd's storehouse at an easy expence. A net-manufacture might be carried on with advantage also; the spinning of the hemp and twining of the yarn would employ the old, and the making of the nets promote industry among the young; very little capital would be requisite for both branches. In this village there are at present upwards of 100 souls.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 3565 Scotch; the land-rent cannot be ascertained, but must exceed considerably L. 2000. As there are no markets for provisions, their prices cannot be exactly known; every family kill for themselves what butcher meat is requisite. Men servants maintained in the family receive *per annum* from L. 2 to L. 3 for wages; the wo-



men from 10 s. to L. 1, besides shoes, and other casualties. Wrights receive 1s. *per* day, and their victuals; a tailor is paid *per* piece, besides his victuals. The roads are bad; Government proposed, after the year 1745, to make a military road from Fort Augustus to Bannockburn barracks in this parish, and to build bridges over the rivers and burns, so as to render it passable for the troops and other travellers. The bridges were first erected by contractors, who made choice of those parts over the waters where materials could be had at the cheapest rate; by this means the roads were unavoidably lengthened, and carried over steep and high precipices, up and down hill. This made the charge more troublesome and vexatious to the military who laboured at the roads, that in no place or part was the road made sufficient, or of proper dimensions. Provost Brown of Elgin was employed in summer 1792 to survey this road, attended by a country gentleman, well acquainted with the proper line to be followed; and as he has given in his report, it is hoped Government will soon see this necessary measure put in execution. As this line of road is the shortest from the metropolis to the island of Sky and the Long Island, and many bridges being already built, by which much expence might be saved, it must appear the more eligible to have this line continued. From its present situation it is impossible to ride it; by this means travellers are necessitated to freight vessels from Argyleshire at an enormous expence. A stage-house in the middle of the hill would be highly proper and necessary.



NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF WHITHORN,

(SYNOD OF GALLOWAY, COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF  
WIGTON.

By ISAAC DAVIDSON, D. D.\*

*Names.*

**T**HIS place has passed under the following names :  
*Candida Casa, Leucopibia, or Leucopibia, Whitbern,*  
*or Whitberne.* It is now called *Whitborn.*

*Leucopibia*

\* In the Statistical Account of Serbie, vol. i. p. 245. there is a mistake, which I beg leave to correct. It is there said, " The oak, ash, beech, alder, fir," &c. in that parish, " are equal to any in their quality." This is right; the mistake follows: " Lord Galloway has found, that *pruning* makes them grow with great vigour. By experiment it appears, that plants which were *pruned*, advanced at the rate of four years in six, before those which were *not pruned*."

Upon the above passage, I observe :

1. That I never knew the Earl of Galloway order trees to be *pruned*, unless where their branches became troublesome upon the roads.



*Leucopibia* is probably a corruption of *Assu' caudia*. This Campden supposes was Ptolemy's translation of *Candida Casa*\*, which transcribers have changed into *Leucopibia*.

As the Roman and Greek names signify a *white house*, or *white houses*, so Whithorn is supposed to have the same meaning. Campden says, *born* is the Saxon word for a vessel of any kind; adding, that some people use inkern for an ink vessel; but it seems more probable, that inkern is a corruption of inkhorn, "a portable case for the instruments of writing, commonly made of horn †."

As there are the remains of a Roman camp within one mile's distance of the town, may not Whithern be a corruption of *Via Tertia*, i. e. *Legionis*, vel *Cohortis*? *Via Tertia* might easily pass into Viteru, and Viteru again into Whithern. In Britain, the V is often changed into W, and the W into V. Thus, in London, many say, "Wear; Vine, and Winegar, are wery good wittles, I wow."

*The Town described*.—The town consists chiefly of one street, running from N. to S. From this street there are several alleys stretching to the E. and to the W. About the centre of the town, there is a good hall for public meetings, adorned with a spire and turrets, and provided with a set of bells. A beautiful stream of water, over which there is a good bridge, runs across the main street, dividing it nearly into two equal parts. The houses are generally covered with slates, and made very commodious.

*Ancient*

2. I did not mean to ascribe the quick growth of trees to *pruning*, but to cutting over in an horizontal direction. From the stumps, shoots will spring to justify my remark. This treatment I have only known applied to oaks and ashes; to firs it would be death.

\* See his *Britannia*, by Gibson, p. 1202.

† See Johnson *in verbo*.



*Ancient Church, and Priory.*—Ninian, who went to Rome in the year 370, was ordained a Bishop of the Britons, and founded a church here in the fourth century; which he dedicated to St Martin \*. Of this church, nothing now remains but ruins, and four Gothic arches, which make part of the present place of public worship. These are upon high ground, on the west side of the town.

Here was a Premonstratensian Priory, endowed as follows:

Paid to it of money, L. 1016 3 4½

Of bear, 15 chalders, 14 bolls, 2 firlots, 3½ pecks.

Of meal, 51 chalders, 15 bolls, 1 firlot, 3½ pecks.

The above account is taken from the collector's book, made about the year 1563. The surplus book, made about the year 1594, makes it more; and is as follows †:

Paid to it of money, L. 1159 3 4

Of bear, 16 chalders, 6 bolls, 3 firlots.

Of meal, 53 chalders, 9 bolls, 2 firlots.

As Keith makes no mention of wheat being paid to the Bishop of Galloway, to this Priory, or that of St Mary Isle, to the Abbays of Dundrenan, New Abbey, Saulseat, or Tugland, it may be presumed that it was not produced in this part of the country ‡.

*Antiquity of the Place.*—Whithorn is a place of great antiquity, as it was a Roman station, the capital of the Novantes,

\* Smith ad Bede, p. 106. and Redpath's Border Hist. p. 20.

† Keith's Hist. Appendix, b. 3. p. 131.

‡ Since writing the above, a friend of mine informs me, that wheat was paid to the Abbot of New Abbey, near Glenluce, and founds his opinion upon a charter of lands in that neighbourhood.



rooms are large, considering the time in which they were built. This seat looks down upon a fine low country, of extent enough to give the best effect to a grand chain of mountains, which are adorned by woods running along their bases, and washed by the river Cree. It also has a view of the Bay of Wigton. The vessels anoying upon this bay and the river now mentioned, add much to the beauty of the scene.

The garden is large, continued in the ancient style to correspond to the house, and well provided with fruit. The box hedges and yews are remarkable for their beauty, and several curious plants flourish here, particularly the tulip tree.

Hugh Stewart, Esq; of Tonderghie, has built a very handsome house, which commands a view of England and the Isle of Man. His lands being exposed to storms from the Atlantic Ocean, he has had great difficulties to contend with as a planter; but his sound judgment and persevering temper; which have enabled him to give the highest degree of improvement to his family-estate, will secure him of victory over these difficulties, or make them an easy conquest to his son. Upon this estate, the effects of marl are seen to the greatest advantage. The land being covered with this manure, a moderate cropping takes place. After which it is laid down in the best order; and produces the finest and most luxuriant pasture.

The Earl of Galloway, and his brother the Honourable Admiral Stewart, are both planting in this parish, and improving its appearance.

*Turnips, &c.*—The land here is well suited to turnips, it being sharp and dry, and never exposed to severe frosts. This crop, however, is seldom used, though its effects in fattening old, and in giving bone to young cattle, are great  
and



and evident. It is long before the tide of opinion turns in favour of management plainly advantageous in the highest degree. The writer of this report remembers the time in which there was scarcely a turnip field to be seen in Northumberland, Roxburghshire, or Berwickshire, where such fields are now so much and so justly valued. The fallow preceding the turnip, and the turnips themselves, being of such high consequence to a wise system of agriculture, it cannot be doubted that the people will soon fall into the general use of this crop. Those who hold this reasoning, very cheap, perhaps remember when their fathers (like some people in Yorkshire now) thought themselves well employed in paring and burning their fine land.

This practice is everywhere reprobated in Galloway, where burning is never performed but in deep moor. The present aversion to turnip and fallowing, will soon share the same fate. The good sense of the people, and their increasing attention to potato crops, persuade me of this. Potato crops are valuable, but not in the same degree with turnip, as they do not allow so much time for fallowing, and as the potato remains in the ground till the seed is ripe. This last circumstance exhausts the soil.

Fallows were so much valued in the days of Virgil, that they were sometimes continued through two seasons.

*" Illa seges demum votis respondet avari*

*" Agricola, his quae solem, his frigora sentit,*

*" Illius immensae ruperunt horrea messis."*

*" That crop rewards the greedy peasant's pains,*

*" Which twice the sun and twice the cold sustains,*

*" And bursts the crowded barns with more than pro-*  
*" mis'd gains,"*



Good dwelling-houses, and office-houses upon farms, add much to the appearance of a country; and sure no set of men deserve good lodgings more than farmers do. In this parish these have improved very much within the last twenty years. They are often covered with slate, and divided into convenient apartments. Sheds and straw-yards are coming into general use.

*Air.*—Here the air is dry and healthy, and I never heard that any disease became epidemic.

*Course of Crops.*—The land being covered with lime, marl, or sea-shells, is opened with beer (big), or oats, and three crops of these succeed each other. With the last is sown rye-grass and clover seeds, which is cut in the summer after the grain has been reaped. This hay-crop, as the rye-grass generally prevails, is almost as severe upon the land as oats.

*Increase and Weight of Grain.*—The average increase of beer, is about eight-fold, and of oats about five-fold. Barley weighs about 52 lb. bear, 46 lb. and oats, 36 lb. avoirdupois, the Winchester bushel.

*Coast; Head-lands and Bays.*—The extent of coast is about nine miles. The shore near Burgh Head is bold, and everywhere rocky. At this headland a lighthouse would be of the greatest use to the trade in those parts. Beside the headland now mentioned, there are Port-Yarroch Head and Stun Head; and the bays are those of Port Allan, Port Yarroch, and Isle of Whithorn.

*Tides.*—From Port Yarroch round Burgh Head, the tide flows close along the shore three hours, and ebbs nine.

From



From the Rofs of Kirkcudbright to the Mull of Galloway, it flows and ebbs fix hours.

*Sea Fight.*—The only sea fight spoken of as having taken place near this shore, is that of Commodore (now Admiral) Elliot, in the year 1760, when that brave and experienced officer defeated the French Squadron under Thurot, killed Thurot himself, and made prizes of all his ships. The British Squadron was greatly inferior to the French in every thing but courage and management. The people in this part of the country, and the nation in general, owe great obligations to Admiral Elliot, who quieted their fears, and placed them in safety.

*Shipwreck.*—About 40 years ago, a vessel 200 tons burden, was blown upon a rock near Burgh Head, where she was dashed to pieces. The mast inclining to one side, and resting upon the rock, the captain and ten men made their way to the top of it, where they remained till day-break, when they descended by means of their clothes fastened together, and some rope which was left on the side of the rock by the vessel as she sunk. The tide having retired, and the men getting upon the beach, their next effort was to ascend a precipice between them and the country. In making this effort, after so much fatigue, nature was so far exhausted in them, that one of their number dropped down dead as soon as he reached the top.

The escape of these men appears very wonderful, and can only be ascribed to the watchful providence of God. The rock, upon which they remained for some hours, beat upon by a heavy rain and violent wind, is of a conical form, 70 feet high and upwards; and about two yards, or two yards and a half, broad at the top. How they clung together



together and stuck to the rock, is more than I can account for after careful examination of it.

The benevolence and zeal of the gentlemen and people in the neighbourhood, in comforting and aiding these unfortunate men, were such as did honour to their feelings; and the piety of the late Hugh Hathorn, Esq; of Castlewigg, on whose shore the rock was, led him to call it, the Rock of Providence.

Of mariners we may well say,

'Tis God that brings them safe to land;  
 Let every mortal know,  
 That waves are under his command,  
 And all the winds that blow.

O that such rescu'd men would praise  
 Thy goodness, gracious Lord;  
 And those that see thy wondrous ways,  
 Thy wondrous love record.

Dr WATTS, with some variations.

*Marble, Lead, Copper, &c.*—Near the rock above mentioned, and upon the same estate, very fine variegated marble, and strong slate are found.

Upon the estates of Robert Hathorn Stewart, Esq; of Phisgill, and Hugh Stewart, Esq; of Tonderghie, there are promising appearances of lead mines; upon the lands of the gentleman last mentioned there are also the strongest appearances of copper. Some time ago, a company of miners undertook to work it, upon condition, that Mr Stewart should have the eighth share of the profits, and be compensated for the damages done to his land; but, unfortunately, the principal died, and his heirs did not chuse to  
 carry

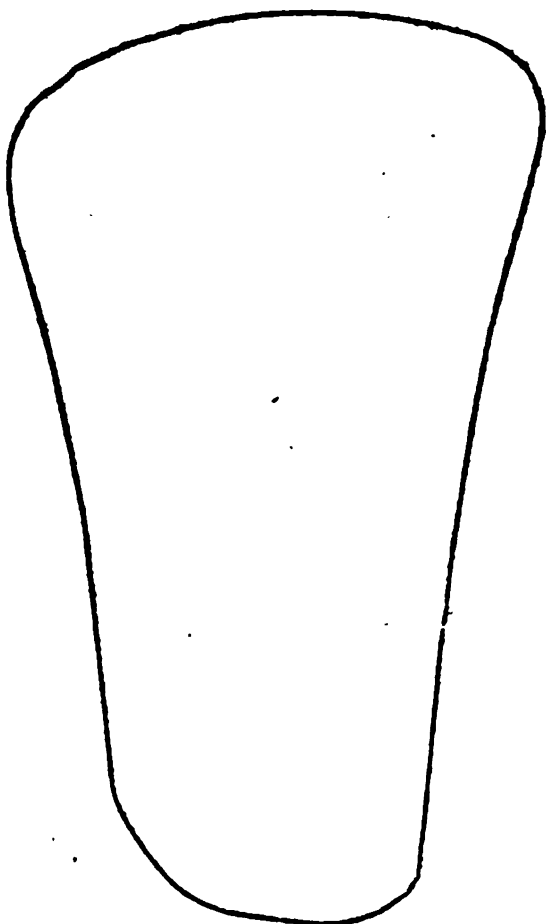


carry on any thing new. This put an end to the business at that time; but surely it cannot be discontinued long; and as soon as a person of spirit and property knows of it, it will be duly attended to. An old miner examined it lately, and was delighted with the appearances, lamenting, at the same time, his want of power to engage with it. A fine stream of water runs over the ~~ore~~, and on one side it is washed by the sea, so that large vessels can come within 100 yards of it. The Isle of Whithorn, a safe port, is at hand. From this port vessels sail to Whitehaven and Workington in four hours; to the Isle of Man in three; to Dublin, Greenock, and Liverpool in eighteen. Upon the lands of Tonderghie, pieces of fine copper have been often found. Lately, a piece of a circular form was found, weighing 3 stone and 5 lb. avoirdupois; and six pieces in an earthen vessel were discovered in the garden of one of his tenants.

*Figure*



*Figure and Size of the Six Pieces of Copper found upon the Estate of Hugh Stewart, Esq; of Tonderghie, as mentioned in the preceding page.—N.B. On one side it is flat, and on the other a little raised.*





*Church, &c.*—The parish church, of which his Majesty is patron, stands upon part of the site of the priory, and is a commendious place of worship. Near to the church stands the manse, which is a good useful house. The stipend being lately augmented, amounts to about L. 107 Sterling, and the glebe consists of about seven acres of very good land. Isaac Davidson is the present minister, being lately translated to this parish from that of Sorbie. He is a married man, and has only one child, a son, Elliot William Davidson, who has succeeded him as minister of Sorbie. Messrs Kelfo, Elder, Delap, Maccaul, and Adair, preceded one another here in the pastoral office.

*Antiquities.*—There are the ruins of a church near Isle of Whithorn, with a burying ground upon the lands of Robert Hathorn Stewart, Esq. The people say this was the first Christian place of worship in Scotland. Between these places there is a stone, upon which is inscribed, “Hic est locus Petri Apostoli.”

The remains of several camps and castles appear upon the coast. The following are upon precipices by the shore :

Carghidoun, upon the estate of Tonderghie, covers about half an acre of ground.

To the S. of this, about one mile's distance, stands Castle Feather, covering near an acre. Some of the wall of this fortification remains.

Going still southward, you meet with another castle, about the same size with the former ; and at Burgh Head there are works covering three acres.

These three last are about equal distances from one another, and stand upon the lands of Captain Hathorn of Castlewigg.

The



The castles now mentioned all look to the Isle of Man, and are probably the remains of those places of defence, raised against the Scandinavian rovers, who used to make that island the place of their rendezvous, and from whence they used to annoy the Hebrides, Ireland, and Great Britain. They not only look to the Isle of Man, but stand upon that British ground nearest to it.

The Roman camp mentioned above, see p. 276, is the only one of that description in the parish. It is much decayed; yet its remains plainly prove its origin, and that it was *Castra Stativa*. It is upon the lands of the Honourable Admiral R. Stewart.

Two urns were found on Captain Hathorn's lands, in a good state of preservation, and are now in his cabinet. One large piece of copper, of a circular form, was also found by one of his tenants, while dressing a field, and brought to him. There is in the same gentleman's cabinet a natural curiosity, which, though a little out of place, I shall mention here. It is a ball, which was taken out of a bullock's stomach; about the size of an orange. This ball, being perforated, appears to be a concretion of hair which the animal had swallowed.

*Longevity.*—There have been several instances of longevity here, and persons between 70 and 80 years of age abound. Last year (1793) a man died, who was said to be upwards of 100; but though there are evidences to shew that he was a very old man, there are none to fix the year of his birth.

Mrs Macmillan, widow of Bailie Anthony Macmillan, late of this burgh, died this year (1794) in her hundredth year. She lived in this parish, and near neighbourhood of it, all her life, and was connected with some of the best families of the county. Her age is well authenticated.

She



She left two sons, one of them a present magistrate in the burgh, and two daughters. Upon enquiry, I have found that Mrs Macmillan was blessed with a good natural temper, and was always the friend of peace; that she enjoyed an easy and uniform flow of spirits, and was greatly esteemed by her neighbours as a person of the best moral character. She was remarkable for cleanliness in her person, at her table, and in her house; and to the end of life shewed great attention to her dress. To all her other accomplishments she added those of religion, the duties of which she performed with an attention and zeal, highly worthy of imitation. Religion appeared in her with a smiling countenance, guided her honourably through the different stages of life, and ministered to her joy in its evening. Her sense of duty led her to industry; and her religious principles and feelings bestowed upon her contentment, and cheerful trust in God. She lived like a saint, and died like a Christian heroine.

*Population.*—The population of this parish, about 53 years ago, was placed at 1300; now it is 1890.

Of these there are, Males,	-	938
Females,	-	952
		<hr/> 1890 <hr/>

The town contains, Males,	-	345
Females,	-	411
		<hr/> 756 <hr/>

The Isle of Whithorn, the only village, contains,		
Males,	-	208
Females,	-	188
		<hr/> 396 <hr/>

Carried forward,	1152
------------------	------



	Brought forward,	1152
The country part of the parish contains,		
Males,	-	379
Females,	-	359
		<hr/> 738
Total,	-	<hr/> 1890

*Poor.*—There are 34 poor upon the list, who are supported by collections at the church-doors, amounting to about L. 32 *per annum*, and such gifts as the parishioners are pleased to bestow upon them, when they ask alms at their houses. Upon these occasions they receive a part of every thing in its season.

*Professions.*—There is 1 clergyman, 1 writer, 1 attorney, 1 plasterer, 1 saddler, 18 masons and 1 apprentice, 16 joiners and 11 apprentices, 2 slaters, 25 weavers and 2 apprentices, 22 shoemakers and 2 apprentices, 16 tailors and 2 apprentices, 8 blacksmiths and 1 apprentice, 1 landwaiter, and 1 tidesman, 12 shopkeepers, 2 coopers and 1 apprentice.

*Sectaries.*—There are a few sectaries of the Cameronian and Antiburgher descriptions.

*Emigration.*—In the year 1774, a few people emigrated to America. They left their native country, their relatives, and abounding means of enjoyment, to settle in woods, among savages and wild beasts. Many of these deluded creatures were rich, and left very profitable leases, to bemoan their folly in uncultivated deserts.

*Produce.*—This parish has grain enough for its inhabitants, and also much for exportation. In 1782-3 it enjoyed its usual plenty.

*Manures.*



*Manures.*—In many places there are very large pits of fine marl; and sea-shell may be procured in any quantity at a low price.

*Advantages for Trade.*—The advantages of this neighbourhood for trade are obvious. Its grain, and herds of black cattle; its flocks of sheep, with fine wool; its rivulets, and water-carriage to the best markets, all point it out as the seat of commerce.

*Repeal of Coal-tax.*—The goodness and wisdom of Government have removed one great obstruction to the trade of this country, by taking the duty off coals borne coastways. For this, men of all-ranks feel grateful to Parliament; and because of it, Mr Dundas will be remembered with applause for ages to come.

*Salt Laws.*—The salt-laws have a most unfriendly operation upon this parish and neighbourhood; and need only to be read to be condemned by every wise and patriotic statesman.

In Cheshire there is a stratum of rock salt, upwards of 50 feet in thickness, and salt springs, appearing every where in that county, shew it to be amply provided with that valuable article. Were this treasure open to all his Majesty's subjects equally, either without any tax, or upon a moderate one, the greatest advantages would arise to trade in general, and in particular to the exportation of salted provisions. But it is locked up from the community at large by several statutes, which seem to have proceeded from partial views, and a short-sighted policy. These statutes forbid the refining of rock salt into white salt in any but a few places therein specified. All England, excepting these few places, and the whole of Scotland, are excluded from  
the



the benefit of using and refining rock salt, which may be exported to foreign countries, and to Ireland. The 9th of Queen Anne, c. 23. § 44. enacts, That for 32 years, every ton of rock salt, put on board any ship in Great Britain, and exported to Ireland, shall pay 9s. This duty is made perpetual by 3d Geo. I. c. 7. but is not enacted. No man of enlarged views will grudge the Irish this advantage. Let them enjoy it, only let us enjoy it along with them.

Rock salt refined, and made into white salt, is eight times as strong as that made in the frith of Forth; and at Liverpool the former is sold, the best at 8d. and small at 5d. *per* bushel, exclusive of duties; while that made in the frith of Forth is sold at 1s. 3d. Here is a temptation to smuggling, which cannot be resisted; and this ruinous contraband trade flourishes in the west of England and Scotland.

Were the duty on salt taken off, and Scotland put upon the same footing with Ireland, the great waste of beef and tallow, proceeding from driving our cattle to the English markets, would be prevented. This waste is greater than is commonly thought of, in so much, that the eighth part of every bullock is supposed to be lost in his journey; and to this may be added, a tenth part of his value expended upon him, for driving and food on his way\*. Much better would it be for the country were he slaughtered at home; but this cannot be done in the present state of the salt laws. These laws do not only keep away from us much good, but they expose us every year to great evil. Almost all our salt being smuggled, there is a dependence upon a precarious supply at the time of laying in our winter's provision; and I have known poor people in danger  
of

\* Accidents added; make this tenth an eighth, so that one fourth is really lost.



of losing that provision. I think I hear some self-conceited person cry out, Why don't they send to a licenced cellar or warehouse, and get salt in a legal way? Why, I tell thee; show wisdom, that in these places there is little other than smuggled salt. Wisdom calls for a review of the salt laws; and justice and impartiality require at least their equalization.

Were the duty on salt taken off it, and laid upon British spirits, much good would arise from the commutation to the public. It would tend to soberise the people, and to lead them to the use of malt liquor. At present, there is little malt liquor sold in this country.

The duty on English salt is 5 s. *per* bushel, weighing 56 lb.; but I never heard of 1 s. of duty being received, it being all smuggled. Make the duty lower, and it will be paid.

*Harbour at Isle of Whitborn, &c.*—At Isle of Whithorn there is a good natural harbour, improved by a quay. It is narrow at the entrance, but very safe for vessels when in. Eight or nine small sloops belong to this place, in which about 30 mariners are employed. They bring coal and lime from England; carry sea-shells from the river Cree, and take away the grain, potatoes, with some fat cattle, sheep, and swine to the different markets. Here is stationed one of his Majesty's revenue cutters.

*Farms.*—The average rent of land is 12 s. 6 d. *per* acre. Farms are from L. 30 to L. 300 *per annum*, and houses are let at L. 14, and downwards.

*Schools.*—There are three schools, one of which is established by law; the master enjoys a salary of L. 9.

*Inns,*



*Inns, &c.*—Here are 4 inns, and 12 ale, or rather whisky houses. Such houses are much too numerous in this country, and the morals of the people are greatly injured by them. They retail a base spirit, so low, as to price, that fixpennyworth of it is enough to make any man mad.

*Mills.*—There are 5 corn mills in the parish, 4 of which go by water, and one is driven by the wind.

*Cottagers.*—The effects of employing cottagers upon farms are very friendly to population. Their children are a stout and a healthy race.

*Tanning, &c.*—Tanning of leather has been carried on for several years to a considerable extent. The tanner sees our own cattle driven to England, and then sets off for Ireland to buy raw hides.—Several cotton manufactures have commenced.

*Stillatory.*—Here also is a stillatory, which pays to the revenue L. 729 *per annum*, besides malt-duty.

*State of the Country before the Union.*—Before the Union of the two kingdoms, this parish had nothing to trade with but black cattle, and a small quantity of bear or big. The last of these last articles they sent to Man for brandy. Agriculture was then so little regarded, that landholders were often obliged to lend oxen, and horses, and seed-corn to their farmers.

*Heritors.*—The heritors of this parish are, the Right Honourable the Earl of Galloway, &c. &c. &c. John Hathorn, Esq; of Castlewigg; James Murray, Esq; of Broughton; Robert Hathorn Stewart, Esq; of Phisgill;  
Hugh



Hugh Stewart, Esq; of Tonderghie; the Honourable Admiral Keith Stewart; the Honourable Sir Stair Agnew, Baronet, of Lochnew-castle.

*Crofters.*—Besides the above, there are five small landholders, called *crofters* in this part of the country. There has been a great change of property in this parish within this century; as I am informed, there were 22 considerable landholders in the country part of the parish, besides eight crofters in the town.

John Hathorn, Esq; of Castlewigg, and Hugh Stewart, Esq; of Tonderghie, are the residing heritors.

The small proprietors are, Bailie Donar, Mr Macgoan, Mr Anthony Macguffock, Mr John Sorry, Mr Charles Broadfoot. All these live in the town excepting Mr Macgoan.

*Labour and Provisions, &c.*—Of late years the prices of labour and of provisions have become very high. This has been accompanied by a great change in the way of living among all ranks of people.

About 60 years ago, there were no clocks, watches, or tea-kettles, but among people of fortune, or some of the ministers. In farmers houses there were no windows of glass. The light was admitted through openings on each side of the house, and that in the windward side was filled with straw in blowing weather.

*Clothing.*—The modes of clothing and living were in proportion, and consisted of the poorest fare and coarsest apparel: Now they live as well as any in Great Britain of their rank. The men are clothed, sometimes with homespun, but more commonly with Yorkshire narrows, cotton velvets, and corderoys. The women appear in printed linens, cottons and muslins. Here I speak of men and  
women



women of the lowest ranks in life ; servants, cottagers, and mechanics.

*Clocks.*—Almost every house has a seven-day clock ; and watches are near as common as breeches.

*Progress since the Union.*—Before the Union of the two kingdoms, the glorious era of Britain's peace and prosperity, there was not a sloop, ship, or vessel of any kind to go to sea in, in this neighbourhood ; but now we see their canvas spread all round the coast, and importing from the West Indies, and the different countries in Europe, every thing tending to use, to ornament, or luxury.

*Wealth.*—The trade and improvements in agriculture have introduced wealth among the people ; real wealth, proceeding from growing skill and increasing industry. This wealth has sunk the value of money, in a proportion almost incredible, as will appear from the following tables, shewing the ancient and present prices of provisions and labour. By ancient, I mean no more than about 60 years ago.

*Ancient.**Present.*

A cow for slaughter, weighing 25 stone Avoird.

	L. 1	8	0	Ditto,	-	L. 6	0	0
Weathers, <i>per</i> score, 4	10	0	0	Ditto,	-	13	0	0
Fowls, <i>per</i> doz.	0	4	0	Ditto,	-	0	8	0
Eggs, <i>per</i> doz.	0	0	1	Ditto,	-	0	0	3
Butter, <i>per</i> lb.	0	0	5	Ditto,	-	0	0	9

*Labour.*

A labourer, *per* day,

	L. 0	0	4	Ditto,	-	L. 0	0	10
An house-servant,								
<i>per annum,</i>	1	10	0	Ditto, from	L. 6	to 10	0	0
A tailor, <i>per</i> day,	0	0	4	Ditto, from 8 d. to	0	0	10	

Every



Every thing else is in proportion with those entered in the above tables. To these things the change in the way of living is to be added. Tables are conducted in a different style; and ale has given place to punch, and punch to wine.

When the particulars stated are duly attended to, Mr Keith's conclusion from similar premises appears reasonable. "Upon the whole matter," says he, "this much seems to be certain, that for all domestic uses L. 100 at the time we are now speaking of," *ann.* 1563, "was, at a moderate computation, as valuable in all points as L. 700 are now a-days."—N. B. Keith wrote, I think, before the year 1740\*.

*Effects of the Decrease of the Value of Money upon the Ministers of Religion.*—This great change in the value of money has ruined many who were dependent on salaries fixed 80 or an 100 years ago; and unless relief is given, many more must suffer the same hard fate. No set of men feel this change more than the ministers of this National Church, who are generally paid, not in kind, but in money. When their stipends were first appointed, L. 60, according to a safe calculation, was equal to L. 180 now.

The progress of society calls aloud, Confine not the ministers of religion to their ancient appointments. Why? say the needy, the greedy, and the graceless, Is not a poor church most like to be a pure church? Those men who have hackneyed this saying allow, when their interest is out of the way, that poverty is often as great an enemy to virtue as wealth. We plead not for overgrown wealth. We only humbly crave, that our income may rise as the necessary expence of living increases.

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P p

That

\* See Keith's Hist. Appendix, lib. 3. p. 190.



That the poverty of the ministers of religion is not only injurious to them, but also to the peace and order of society, will be allowed by every person who thinks a National Church of any use. He who is in easy circumstances will be forward in acts of goodness, and shew a pattern of that charity which he recommends. He will diffuse a spirit of contentment, joy, and industry, every where about him. In him the Church will find an enlightened friend, and the State a prudent, firm champion. When he goes about the sacred duties of religion, he commands respect by the integrity and benevolence of his life, which gives weight to all he says. He, on the contrary, who lives on L. 75 or L. 80 *per annum* in a parish where there are many tithes, is in danger of becoming sullen and indifferent to a Government where he suffers so much injustice.

NUM-



NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF BOTHWELL,

(COUNTY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND Ayr,  
AND PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.)

*By the Rev. Mr MICHAEL MACCULLOCH, Minister.*

*Name.*

THE origin of the name is uncertain. *Botb*, in Celtic, Syriac, Chaldee, and Saxon, signifies "a habitation or dwelling." *Huil*, in Celtic, is "a flood or water;" and compounded with *Botb*, Both-uil or Bothwell, is "a habitation beside or on the waters." This sense is confirmed by Llhuid's Archæol. Brit. Bullet, Baxter, and Verstigan\*.

It

\* Ed. Llhuid's Archæol. Brit. *woce* "to dwell," *Bod* is Welsh-Celtic for "habitation."—Bullet's Memoires sur la Langue Celtique, tom. iii. p. 4. *Bod* signifies "habitation."—Baxter's Glossary, *Bodo* means "aquosus."—Verstigan's Restitution of decayed Intelligence, words ending in *well* denote places beside water.



It might mean the patron saint. Thus, pronounced *Botbual*, gives "St Bothan's town," and from thence extended to the parish.

Bullet\* renders *Botbwell*, "a castle upon an eminence;" from *Botb*, which he interprets "eminence," and *wall*, in composition *well*, "a castle."

The first sense seems to suit the situation of the castle, the town, and the parish: For the Clyde encircles a great part of the castle†, passes near to the town or village; in a flood, covers the low ground beside the hill on which it stands; while the two Calder's almost surround the rest.

*Situation and Extent.*—Bothwell was a great, noble and ancient barony, extending from Clyde to West Lothian. It is situated in the nether ward of the county of Lanark, in the presbytery of Hamilton, and Synod of Glasgow and Ayr: bounded upon the S. by the Clyde, and part of South Calder; on the W. and N. by North Calder; on the E. by the Shotts. It is of an oval figure, extending from W. to E. broadest toward the middle, and contracted at both ends; about eight miles and a half in length, and four at the greatest breadth.

The great road from Glasgow to Edinburgh goes through the whole length of the parish, and divides it nearly into two equal halves; enters it at the west point, by a bridge over the Calder, about a quarter of a mile north from where it joins the Clyde, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Glasgow. After a very steep ascent, which is soon to be levelled, it goes along upon a flat of 4 or 5 miles, and then ascends considerably towards the east, as it approaches the high lands of the

\* Tom. i. p. 395.

† Bothal Castle, in Northumberland, is situated upon the river Wentbeck.



the Shotts. The ground to the south of the road gradually declines toward the river, which gives a fine prospect of the Clyde, Hamilton, and the adjacent country.

The great flat of the upper part of the parish is, at a medium, 300 feet above the level of the sea; that toward the Clyde is greatly lower.

The church and village of Bothwell is  $36\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Edinburgh, *per* section from the great road leading to the village; 8 from Glasgow; 27 from Stirling; 17 from Larnark.

The distance from neighbouring parishes, (bearing and distance from the church), are these: Hamilton, south-east, separated by the Clyde, 3 miles distance. Blantyre, upon the south, separated also by the Clyde; distance, 3 miles. North-west is Old Monkland, separated by North Calder; distance, 3 miles. Upon the north, New or East Monkland, distance 8 miles, separated by the North Calder. Upon the north-east, the Shotts, distance 8 miles. Cambusnethan E. N. E. separated by South Calder, distance 8 miles. Upon the east, Dalziel, at 3 miles distance, separated by the South Calder.

*Surface and Soil.*—The parish rises gradually from the Clyde to the north, and still more to the north-east. Upon the banks of the river, south from the church, a large flat succeeds; at the termination of which, an ascent takes place toward the middle, or the line of the turnpike, where it rests in another large level, extending almost the whole length of the parish, but rising in some places toward the north, and very considerably to the east.

There can scarcely be said to be either moss, moor or morafs in the parish. If there are some spots of the two last, they are so small as not to deserve consideration. In general, all is arable.

The



The soil is chiefly clay, of various mixture, loam, sand and till, and some of a lighter mould. It is good toward the Clyde, where there is more warmth and shelter; and there is a great deal of excellent ground in the parish.

Placed in so fine an exposure to the south, occupying so large a space, and so commanding a view of one of the finest countries in Scotland, the situation is from these circumstances very beautiful, and peculiarly adapted to the purposes of cultivation.

*Air and Climate.*—The air is good, and the climate healthful. A ridge of high hills, about ten miles north, carry off the clouds and vapour, that may be raised from the Atlantic, or otherwise. A long stretch of high ground does the same service on the south; and the parish, on account of its separate state, happily remains unaffected, while the storm is driving along both. The chief inconvenience arises from the clay soil tenaciously keeping upon the surface the rain that falls in winter. But the declining position of the parish, the good roads and ditches, serve as drains, and prevent any sensible bad effects upon the health of the people. Their houses are placed upon a dry situation, and well covered. There is no disease peculiar to the parish. When the small-pox enter a village, from their close connexion and mode of frequent visiting each other in distress, the infection becomes general, but seldom fatal. The air at the east end is sharper, the ground considerably higher, and the snow lies longer.

Many arrive at old age; yet the employment of the husbandman is not the most favourable for a very advanced life. Engaged in incessant toils, driven often from the extremity of heat to cold, exposed to all the inclemencies of the elements; these wear out the best constitutions; and extreme old age is to be ascribed more to the uncommon



strength of stamina, than to fine air or climate, else the effects of these would be more equally felt.

*Wood and Planting.*—The woods are chiefly beside the proprietors seats, and upon the banks of the waters, where there is a good deal of coppice, and several large plantations. Some of fir, planted many years since, had arrived to a considerable size, and were lately sold to a good account; but enough is left, both for ornament and shelter. Many plots and strips were made lately, and promise well. One of the finest places in the parish derives its name\* from the extensive woods and plantations about it.

The woody banks of the Clyde and Galders, are frequented by the usual tenants of the groves of Caledonia, particularly the thrush and blackbird. The village and manse, on account of the planting, are highly favoured with the music of these two melodious birds, especially the last.

*Population.*

Under 15 years of age,	-	1112
From 15 to 70,	-	1535
Above 70,	-	60
		<hr/>
In all,		2707 †

Males,

\* Woodhall.

† *Local Divisions.*

Woodhall, Lauchope, Sideridge,	-	779
Stevenson, Cleland, Carfin, Tirviston,	-	495
Orbiston, upper and lower,	-	526
Back of moor, Carnbroe,	-	195
Uddingston, and out farms,	-	287
Bothwell, out farms, and Bothwell Castle,	-	425
		<hr/>
		2707 .

This division may gratify posterity, as by it they will see the increase or decrease not only of the parish in general, but of these arrangements and estates in particular.



Males,	1337
Females,	1370
	<hr/>
	2707

There are about four gentlemen seats at present unoccupied; when they are supplied with their respective families and servants, the number in whole may amount to 2800.

*Trade and Manufactures.*

Bakers,	-	-	4	Blacksmiths,	-	-	19
Shopkeepers,	-	-	14	Tailors,	-	-	14
Stocking-weavers,	-	-	22	Shoemakers,	-	-	22
Colliers,	-	-	50	Millers,	-	-	6
Masons,	-	-	41	Coopers,	-	-	6
Weavers,	-	-	113	Innkeepers,	-	-	20
Joiners,,	-	-	19				

The weavers are chiefly supplied with business from the manufactures in Glasgow.

There are six corn mills, two lint mills, and one bleach-field.

Four villages are in a thriving state.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The Duke of Hamilton is patron. The stipend received no alteration since 1650 till 1781, though the rental of the parish was much more than doubled in that time. It is now 6 chalders and 1 boll of meal, 1 chalders of bear, and L. 46, 18 s. in money.

The church was repaired about 16 years since; the manse lately.

The glebe consists of above 4 acres arable; but is deficient of the legal *quantum* for pasture.

The



The incumbent has expended considerably upon the manse and garden, and has lately planted an orchard of a choice collection of fruit-trees, which he hopes will yield a benefit to his successors of L. 30 annually.

It is to be wished that some general plan was adopted, to put and keep manses and glebes in proper order. Intrants often find all in ruins. Composed of the most superficial materials, and given to the lowest undertaker, they need patching every 12 years; whereas, if manses were made good and substantial at first, they might last with little charge for 80 or 100 years, and would be a great saving to the landed interest.

A house of the Relief persuasion was built in the year 1763. The congregation is supplied from this, and five neighbouring parishes.

The school does not accord with the respectability of the parish, which has long suffered for want of a sufficient schoolmaster. It has checked the genius and improvements of the people. Complaints were numerous. The salary\* is 100 merks Scots, or L. 5 : 11 : 1 $\frac{4}{12}$ . No addition was asked, but that the best use should be made of it. When a vacancy lately took place, the principal heritors required, that an advertisement should be published; a comparative trial of candidates taken; and the best qualified preferred; that so the parish might be furnished with a man properly accomplished for that important trust. But this most equitable measure was defeated. A party of portioners, and other heritors, elected one, to whose qualifications strong objections were offered. The cause has undergone a tedious process, and is yet depending.

\* A small sum, besides, is appropriated to a school in a distant part of the parish.



*Poor.*—The poor are supplied from an assessment, fixed by a meeting of heritors and church-session, who meet once in the six months, examine the poors roll, and appoint such a sum to be levied for the ensuing half year, as the state of the poor requires. The landed property pay the one half, and the householders the other. As the parish is assessed, the Sunday collections are small; and are applied to keep the poor rates in moderation, to aid such as have a small allowance, and to keep others off it, by giving them incidental charity. At an average, there are about 25 upon the roll; and the sum allotted for the current year, is L. 73 : 18 : 8 Sterling.

By the mode of Sundays collections in Scotland, the poor are in general supported by the poorer part of society; but a legal assessment secures the contribution of all ranks in the parish, sectarists, and especially the *opulent proprietors*, whether resident or not. Its increase, however, ought to be jealously watched, and as much as possible prevented. The following regulations may be of use.

To prevent any from settling in the parish, whose circumstances may soon, or immediately, need supply; or to have an obligation from the parishes whence they come, that they shall support them.—Not to raise the stent upon every exigency, but to make a collection among the heritors, or at the church, for that purpose.—Never to slacken the hand of industry, by giving too early, or too much; for this would render it a nursery of sloth and idleness. A little exercise cheers even the languor of age, and sweetens both the cup and the rest of the labouring man. The real circumstances of every poor person should be precisely known, as representations may be biased by favour or influence; that when application is made, every proper object may have the necessary relief, and no part of the public charity shall be misapplied.—To admit no person upon



the roll, unless an intimation thereof is lodged with the church-session six weeks before the meeting, that the session may inquire into the state of the case, and report the same to the meeting.

By such provisions as these, the much dreaded evil of poor-rates in this country, may be prevented, and an effectual support for the poor secured; vagrant begging suppressed, and their children educated in knowledge and virtue.

*Rent and Inclosures.*—The old valuation of the parish is L. 7389 : 16 : 0<sup>4</sup>/<sub>5</sub> Scots.

In 1650, the rental of the parish was L. 1950 : 18 : 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Sterling. In 1782, L. 4431 : 7 : 4 Sterling. But the real annual value cannot be well ascertained, as a good deal of the best is in the hands of proprietors and portioners. It may amount to between L. 5000 and L. 6000 Sterling.

The croft acres round the two principal villages, are estimated at L. 2 yearly. The outfield is from 10 s. to L. 1.

The land is not let by the acre, but at the *slump* of the farm, and the accumulated value estimated.

The farms are generally small, which is one great cause of the increase of population. In this respect, small farms are public benefits; but large farms, held by wealthy farmers, tend more effectually to advance the value of the ground.

They are commonly from L. 30 to L. 70. Seven about L. 100, and one or two between L. 100 and L. 200.

The rent of farms has been considerably increased within these 20 years, some more than doubled.

There are a great many inclosures in the parish, consisting chiefly of thorns. These around the gentlemen's seats are



are generally in good order ; but such as are in the hands of tenants, are imperfect.

The slope hedge, instead of being planted upon the top, is very unfavourable ; excludes sun, rain and dew, from the root of the plant ; and the breaches of youth continue through age. The nursing a young hedge requires a good deal of attention ; a farmer of small extent grudges the charge. It would be for the interest of the proprietor to make some allowance, or to divide the expence of rearing the hedges for 7 or 8 years, till they are established ; the farmer being bound to maintain them during his lease.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The parish is well appointed in roads. The great road from Glasgow to Edinburgh, goes through the whole length of the parish, as has been already noticed. The road from Glasgow to Carlisle enters the parish on the west, a little to the south of the Edinburgh road, by a bridge over the Calder very near to Clyde, goes along the pleasant banks of the river, passeth through the village at the church, and crosses the Clyde at Bothwell bridge. The mail coach goes the same course twice a-day.

There are several sections from the Edinburgh road, crossing the parish in different places ; three leading to Hamilton, one to Lanark, and two to Airdrie, in good order. Besides these, there are many cross roads, made and repaired by the statute-work. It is converted at the rate of 15 s. per plough-gate ; the annual amount is L. 80 : 8 : 9½. The turnpike and statute roads put together, amount to about 50 miles ; 22 of which are good turnpike,—a provision rarely to be found in one parish, but which must facilitate the improvement, and enhance the value of the landed property.

The



The principal bridges are, *Bothwell bridge*, over the Clyde, of four arches, which is old, upon a narrow scale, and is proposed to be rebuilt upon a larger plan, which will be a great improvement to this part of the country. There are two bridges over North Calder, on the west corner, where the Edinburgh and Carlisle roads enter the parish, and other two over the same water, on the roads to Airdrie. Three are upon the South Calder; one of them is upon the road to Lanark, lately built, and in good condition.

*Price of Labour and Provisions.*—The price of labour here, as in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, has been within these seven years considerably advanced. A principal ploughman, or man-servant, is from L. 10 to L. 12, with his board; a young man, next to him, who drives the plough, and works with him, is from L. 5 to L. 8; a maid-servant in the house, from L. 3 to L. 4 or L. 5; a common day labourer, formerly 10d. or 1s. is now 1s. 4d., in hay-time, 1s. 8d. or 2s.; the women 8d.; a house-carpenter 1s. 6d. or 1s. 8d.; a mason 1s. 8d. and 1s. 10d.; a tailor 1s. with board.

The advance of wages is severely felt by the small farmer. But his acting the principal part himself, till his children grow up to assist him, is a considerable saving.

Hamilton being so near is resorted to for butcher-meat. Glasgow regulates the price of grain. The produce of the dairy is generally carried there; and poultry is often dearer here than at that town, being carried thither in hopes of a higher price.

*Agriculture.*—The principal business of the parish is agriculture. It is pursued with great diligence, and according to the respective abilities of the farmer. It has  
received



received a considerable improvement within these 20 years. The outfield was frequently ploughed, but the crop not worth the labour; now every pendicle is attended to, and exhibits, when the season is favourable, tolerable good culture. It is not long since they discovered the happy effects of lime on the strong clay. It is now very generally used; and when judiciously applied, produces very good crops. It is brought from the lime-works in burnt shells, and laid on at the proportion of from 50 to 100 bolls *per* acre. To do the field justice, it will take 100 bolls to each acre. The boll is 7 d. at the kiln, and consists of the wheat firstot, or Winchester bushel. They have strictly no regular rotation. The usual one is summer-fallow, with lime and dung; first year wheat; 2d pease; 3d oats, sown with grass, cut one year or two, and pastured as many; or, instead of oats, the 3d year barley, prepared with frequent ploughing and dung, and laid down with grass-seeds, which is a course more favourable to the ground.

As it is but a small part of the farm that a sufficient quantity of dung can be procured to prepare for wheat, other parts are limed on the pasture, two or three crops taken, and laid down in grass; a green crop generally succeeding oats.

The introduction of wheat has been attended with one good circumstance, the cultivating, or *bringing in*, as it may well be termed, of that poor ejected alien, the *outfield*; for the summer-fallow is frequently applied there, and being furnished with lime and dung, a pretty good crop of wheat is produced, with one of pease, and another of oats. By repeated applications of this nature to the outfield, it has made very grateful returns, producing a crop of wheat from 7 to 10 bolls an acre, with two more proportionably fertile.

By



By this attention to the *outfield*, it is observed, that the *croft* has failed for some years of the great crops it used to produce, owing to the farmer carrying all the dung and manure he can procure to his wheat-land, as he chiefly depends upon that crop for his rent.

Barley, for the same reason, is now less cultivated, as it interferes with the manure of the wheat; and, on account of the binding quality of the clay, it will not grow, unless it be cherished with refreshing showers soon after it is sown; for this cause, it is judged a precarious crop.

Beans, mixed with pease, used to be raised from the *croft* ground in great abundance. But in bad harvests, it is extremely difficult to get them timely dried and stacked, without which they are in a great measure lost. So that wheat, oats, and hay, are likely to be cultivated as the surest crops.

Potatoes are planted by every farmer, but chiefly for private use. Tradesmen depend much upon that valuable root. The hard soil is not so favourable as a tender and quick soil for that crop.

The clay is equally unfriendly to flax; and no more of it is sown than is necessary for the use of each family.

They sow in March, or as soon as the season will permit, and the soil is so dry as to admit them to go upon the fields.

Their harvest is earlier than some of their neighbours; especially that part of the parish which lies toward Clyde.

After all the manure that can be applied, the goodness of crops in this parish depends particularly upon the season. From its declining attitude to the south, but especially from the stiffness of the clay, it needs frequent showers, first in the spring, to bring the grain equally through the hard soil; and then a regular succession of showers to dissolve the clay, else it forms an impenetrable cement, excluding  
all



all dew and moisture from the root of the plant. But when the ground is in pretty good order, and is favoured with frequent rains, it never fails to produce excellent crops. This is so remarkable, that the crop about the village of Bothwell is looked to by the inhabitants of the moorish part of the country as the index of the season; and when it is very luxuriant, they consider it as a certain signal that a greater quantity of rain has fallen, than suits their situation.

As a proof of what returns the best soil will yield, these are attested by credible authors, who both sowed and reaped the field. In some places the crop has amounted to 15 bolls of oats *per* acre; one acre of the glebe produced, 30 years since, 18 bolls of beans; and one in the holms yielded above 20 bolls of wheat, or 80 Winchester bushels. They were doubtless in high cultivation.

The grain is of a superior quality. The conversion at the mill is little short of meal for oats. It is purchased for seed by other parts of the country. The Scots plough, upon a lighter plan, with three horses, is generally used.

There is excellent butter and cheese made in the parish; but the dairy is not carried to any great extent, owing to the small farms, and the little portion allotted for pasture, they depending chiefly upon the arable crops for their profits.

The number of milk-cows are in proportion to the size of the farm, and will be from 6 to 12, or 14. They rear their black cattle and some horses, both of which are generally of a good breed.

It is expected, that here, and in other parts of the country, a more favourable rotation will take place. Instead of that ruinous practice of constant ploughing and scourging the soil, equally impoverishing the tenant and the farm, more will be allowed to graze, and less ploughed. The  
excessive



excessive rate of labour and wages, and the advanced price of hay and grass, it is hoped will produce this most desirable improvement.

This parish possesses peculiar advantages for improvements, in the strong fertile nature of its soil; in the happy situation of its farms and fields; in its vicinity to Glasgow; Hamilton and Airdrie; in the store of coal; in every estate being watered by the Calders, or the Clyde, and adapted to the purposes of machineries and manufactures; and in the high degree of cultivation it has already attained. Upon these accounts, landed property here is of a superior value; and when agriculture shall be prosecuted with greater vigour, this parish must still hold the very first place in the county.—*Vid. Means of Improvement.*

*Quarries and Minerals.*—The parish abounds in free-stone. The quarries toward Clyde are of a red colour, some of a smooth surface, and very durable. In the upper part of the parish are several free quarries, of a beautiful white; and the houses of the new villages are all neat, and well built.

There is an excellent going coal in Woodhall-lands. The price at the pit is 2 s. 9 d. Sterling *per* ton. The lands of Stevenston, Olclano, and Jerviston, have also coal. The price was lately considerably advanced, but is again somewhat reduced. The chief consumption is in the parish and neighbourhood.

Limestone is not found in the parish; it is brought from Hamilton and Kilbride, at the distance of six miles.

*Language, Dress, Manners.*—The language spoken here is English, with the Scotch dialect.

Like their neighbours, within these 20 years, they are much improv'd in their dress. The women wear a black



filk cloak and hat; the men appear in English cloth and a hat. Their appearance in public and at church is decent and elegant; but this taste for shew and finery, is at once the cause of their demand of high wages, and why so little more of their earning is allowed to accumulate than formerly, when they had scarcely more than the half of their present allowance.

In general, the farmers are an industrious, sober, and virtuous people; regular in their attendance upon public worship; just, charitable, and humane; constantly engaged in the culture of their fields, they are happily removed from the arts of circumvention to acquire wealth; or those of dissipation to obtain licentious pleasure.

The first day of the new year is their only holiday, which they spend in friendly visits and mutual congratulations. Curling is their chief amusement in winter. Their weddings are celebrated with a decent cheerfulness. After partaking of a plentiful entertainment, the evening is spent in festive mirth and the social dance.

*Rivers.*—The only river is the Clyde, which waters the parish along the south side, in a gentle declivity, with beautiful windings, and here and there shallows, for the space of three or four miles. It is stored with trout and salmon, which are taken with the rod or net. At the end of harvest, and sometimes in winter, it overflows the holms or low grounds; but the experience they have had warns them timely to remove the crop out of danger.

The water of *North Calder* rises from the Black Loch in the parish of East Monkland, and continues its course westward for about 15 miles, till it falls into Clyde, at the bridge above mentioned; and for 7 or 8 miles separates the parish from the East and West Monklands.

The



The water of South Calder rises from several marshes and fens in the parishes of Shotts and Cambusnethan, and having continued its course for 15 miles, falls into the Clyde a little below Orbieston.

They are generally shallow in summer; but in winter and rainy seasons, they pour a great quantity of water into Clyde.

The stream of the North Calder is considerably lessened by the water being taken into the Monkland Canal at Woodhall.

These two waters are chiefly distinguished for the romantic scenery of their banks; upon which account, all the gentlemen who live in that part of the country, have placed their seats upon the banks of the one or other of these two Calders.

There are no lakes in the parish.

*Eminent Men.*—Notwithstanding the adverse plan of education in the parish, the following may be named under this class, who owed their rise to more favourable seminaries :

Two sons of the Rev. Mr William Hamilton, Messrs Robert and Thomas, succeeded each other as Professors of Anatomy in the College of Glasgow.

The last was succeeded by his only son, Mr William Hamilton; a young gentleman, who, by his distinguished abilities, and indefatigable application, soon acquired a very high degree of fame in his profession. He died in early life; his loss was deeply felt, and universally regretted. His feeling heart, and gentleness of manners; his endearing sympathy with the distressed, almost soothing away pain; his rare and amiable virtues, will long live in the memory of his friends, and in a very extensive circle of society.

In



In this list must be included the late Daniel Campbell, Esq; of Shawfield, brother to the present proprietor.

He was one of the most accomplished gentlemen his country has produced. Nature was liberal to him of her choicest gifts : Taste and elegance seemed natural to him : He possessed the graces in perfection : The fine arts were his favourite amusements. He sat in two Parliaments, and gave such proofs as declared him qualified to have made an eminent figure in the British Senate. Above all, the ineffable sweetness, the flowing sensibilities of his heart, enhanced every accomplishment, gave a charming lustre to the whole man, and rendered him at once admired and beloved by all who knew him.

- To these may well be added Mr William Aiton, author of *Hortus Kewensis*, 3 vols. He was a native of this parish, educated under the friendly shade of the last gentleman's family. He went to England in 1754. In 1739 he was pointed out to the Princess Dowager of Wales and his present Majesty, as a man best qualified to form a botanical garden at Kew. Under their encouragement, he studied and laboured for 34 years, collecting from every corner of Britain, and the remotest climes, every rare and valuable production of the vegetable creation.

How far he succeeded in a task so arduous and laudable, the present highly finished state of that place, the unanimous approbation of the best judges of the botanical science, and the accurate description given by himself, are, and it is hoped shall continue to be the most ample testimonies for ages.

In him the gentleman and the Christian were happily united. By his patronage, multitudes with their families are now comfortably settled in the world. Placed in the highest sphere of his employment, he acquired the approbation of all ranks. He was honoured with very particu-

lar



lar marks of the bounty and favour of our most *amiable Sovereign*. His name and fame extended to every quarter of the globe; proved passports to distant kingdoms; and his recommendations were sufficient introductions to men of science in foreign Courts.

He might be called the *Scotch Linnaeus*, from whom the *younger Linnaeus* received no small improvement. What an honour to his country, and what praise is due to such eminent virtue! He died at Kew, Feb. 19. 1793. His son succeeded to his charge \*.

*Antiquities.*—The castle of Bothwell † is a very ancient and noble structure. In its decayed state it exhibits some striking remains of its former splendor, and is, perhaps, the most magnificent ruin in Scotland. The work is all done with polished stone, of a red colour; the apartments very lofty. What of it remains occupies a space in length 234 feet, and in breadth 99 feet over the walls. The lodgings are confined to the east and west ends, and many of them sufficiently distinguished. The chapel is marked with a number of small windows, and like a chamber of state off it, with two large windows to the south. The old well in the corner of one of the towers, penetrating through the rock

\* Funeral Sermon by Smith, Camberwell. Monthly Review of said Sermon, May 1793. "We who knew the man have good reason to believe, that the testimony here borne to his worth, his genuine piety, his exemplary morality, and his extensive benevolence, is no more than his just due. Real merit is sometimes exaggerated in funeral panegyrics; but this is not the case in the present instance."

† The Castle of Bothwell and the Provostry once made a conspicuous figure in the parish, and in the history of Scotland. The first is still visited by the curious, and admired in its ruins. As there is nothing published respecting them, these few hints have been procured with some pains.



rock to a good spring, was discovered a few years since. The stair of one of the highest towers is almost entire to the top, which presents an immense height above the river. The court in the middle was probably designed to contain their cattle and provisions in case of an assault, an arrangement peculiar to many ancient castles. The entry is on the north, about the middle of the wall. Vestiges of the fosse are yet visible. It appears to have been built and enlarged at different times, and by the several proprietors who occupied it.

The following is a concise statement of the various lords or masters it had received in the vicissitudes of fortune :

" It was anciently possessed by the Murrays \*. But in the time of King Edward I. it was given to Aymer de Valance † Earl of Pembroke, Governor for him of the south part of Scotland. Upon his forfeiture, it was given by King Robert Bruce to Andrew Murray, Lord Bothwell, who married Christian, sister to that King. With his grand-daughter it came to Archibald the Grim, Earl of Douglas, by marriage, and continued in their family till their forfeiture by King James II. 1455. After the forfeiture

\* M. S. Mr Hamilton of Withaw, Advocates Library.

† 1307. Earl Pembroke having the command of the English army, challenged Bruce to fight him at the bottom of Loudon Hill. He accepted, and defeated him. The Earl retreated to *Bothwell Castle*. GUTH.

1336. Edward III. published writs, dated from the *Castle of Bothwell*, ordering his Parliament to assemble, and concert the proper means of defending his kingdom against the Scots, and commanding his admirals to oppose the French fleet; putting them in mind that his progenitors were always masters at sea. These papers, written at Bothwell, are copied in Rymer's *Fœd.* vol. 4 p. 721

1337. 6th March. Scots besiege *Bothwell Castle*, took it by storm from the English, and level it to the ground. GUTH.



seizure of the family of Douglas, the bulk of the lordship of Bothwell was given to Lord Crichton, son to Chancellor Crichton; and Bothwell forest, or Bothwell moor, was given to Lord Hamilton, in exchange of the lands of Kingwell.

Crichton was forfeited in 1485, for joining with Alexander Duke of Albany against King James III. It was then given by King James III. to the Lord Monipenny, from whom it was soon retaken, as having been given by the King in his minority; and was thereafter given by him to John Ramsay his favourite, who enjoyed it till the 1488, when he was forfeited for counterfeiting a commission under the great seal to the Earl of Northumberland; then the lordship of Crichton was gifted by King James IV. to Adam Hepburn Lord Hailles, whom he created Earl of Bothwell. It continued in his line till November 1567, when James Earl of Bothwell was forfeited for the murder of Henry, father to King James VI. Thereafter it was given by that King to Francis Stewart, son of John Abbot of Kelso, who was natural son to King James V.; and he being forfeited for crimes committed against James VI. his estate was gifted to the Lairds of Buccleugh and Roxburgh, from whom the Marquis of Hamilton acquired all the superiority and patronage of that lordship.

The property, which was less than the 3d of the lordship, with the Castle of Bothwell, having been disposed by Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell, to the Earl of Angus, in exchange of the lordship of Liddisdale.

The said William Earl of Angus, and Archibald his son, in 1630, or thereby, did feu the 3d part of the lordship to the particular tenants and possessors thereof, without diminution of the old rent, and reserving the Castle and Mains of Bothwell. It was given off as a patrimonial portion with the Earl of Forfar, but is again returned to  
the



the family of Douglas by the death of Archibald Earl of Forfar, who died at Stirling of his wounds received at Sherrifmuir, in the year 1715."

The above account is confirmed by this circumstance, that the different parts of the edifice retained each the name of the builder; such as *Valence* tower, *Douglas* tower\*, *Hamilton* tower, and the *Cuning* tower; and some are still known by them. The Douglas family had exceedingly enlarged and improved it; their arms were found in different places of the wall. It is impossible to form a just idea of its former greatness, as it is said that a great deal of it was taken down by the Earl of Forfar, out of which he built a modern house.

There is this peculiar to that superb structure, that all the neighbouring objects are in a great style. The Clyde makes a fine circle round the Castle; the breadth of the river is considerable; the streams spread over a plain rocky bottom; the banks, on both sides, are very high, and adorned with natural wood. The Craig of Blantyre, with the ruins of the old house of the Priors upon the top of it, immediately opposite, has a striking effect; while this noble monument of ancient grandeur extends along the summit of the north bank, with a bold aspect to the south, at both ends rears its lofty towers, and dignifies the whole scene†.

*Bothwell*

\* James, Lord Hamilton, married Eupham Graham, daughter of the Earl of Strathern, and second wife and widow of Archibald the 5th Earl of Douglas; and, in her right, was in possession of a considerable part of the lordship and barony of Bothwell. Crawford.

† See Buildings. Bothwell House.



*Bothwell Church.*—Bothwell church, or quire, is an old structure, in the Gothic style, of excellent workmanship, 70 feet in length over the walls, and 39 in breadth. It is still entire, and used for public worship; only the portico, at the west end, was taken down 1719, to admit of a modern addition, to accommodate the congregation. The roof is arched and lofty, and from within makes a very fine appearance. It is lighted with a tire of large windows on each side, and a great window in the east end; in the upper part of which the Douglas arms are cut, and at the south corner of the window, within and without, quartered in stone with the Royal arms, probably pointing to the Earl of Douglas's marriage with King Robert's grand daughter. The Hamilton arms are engraved in the centre of the arch, which supports what is called the organ-loft. The arched roof is covered with large polished flags of stone, somewhat in the form of pan-tiles. The whole edifice is composed of stone, strengthened by pilasters, to support the weight of the roof. There are no ornaments or inscriptions; but near the outer base of the spire, the name of the master-mason is written in Saxon characters,

*Magister Thomas Iron.*

A cell is placed upon the back wall, which enters from within, where the font basin, of stone, built in the wall, and the stone pitcher, standing in the middle of the paved vault, are yet complete.

In the two east corners of the church, are two sepulchral monuments of the Earl of Forfar and son.

*Provostry, or Collegiate Church of Bothwell.*—The collegiate church of Bothwell \* was founded 10th of October

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1398,

\* It was before a cloister of nuns. Spotswood's Appendix.



1398, by Archibald the grim Earl of Douglas, for a Provost and eight prebendaries; to which he grants the lands or Osberington, or Orbiston, in his barony of Bothwell, and the lands of Netherurd, and mill thereof, in the sheriffdom of Peebles, *in perpetuum elemosinam*.

The endowment of the church was very great; for besides these lands, there was given them a right to all the tithes of Bothwell and Bartrom, Shotts, Avendale, and Stonehouse parishes, and several superiorities. Most of these superiorities, with part of the property, and whole tithes, belong now to the Duke of Hamilton, who is both patron and titular.

The Noble founder died in the 1400; and, as tradition has it, is buried with his Lady, under a large marble stone in the east end of the said quire. In the year 1400, David Prince of Scotland was married to Marjory Douglas, daughter to Archibald, the grim Earl of Douglas, in the church of Bothwell.

The prebendaries had each a house and yard, round the church. The houses are demolished, but the yards retain the names of Vicar yard, Prebend yards. The Provost of Bothwell had a vicar at St Catherine's Chapel, for serving the upper part of the parish, now called the Shotts. But after the Reformation, it was divided into two parishes.

*Provosts and Ministers of Bothwell.*—The first Provost was Thomas Varoye pr Barry. He was born in the reign of King David II. and probably died toward the beginning of the reign of Robert III. He wrote a poem on the battle of Otterburn, fought 5th of August 1388.

The next Provost was William Foulis, designed, *Custos privati sigilli, et Præpositus de Bothwell*, by King James I. 23d year of his reign.—His successor was *William Pont*. He was keeper of the privy seal, and is a witness with  
John



John Bishop of Glasgow, and others, to a charter of King James I. at Edinburgh 24th May, 24th year of King James's reign.—He was succeeded by *Dr John Ralston*, a younger son of the family of Ralston in Renfrewshire, in the reign of King James I. From being parson of Cambuslang, he was promoted to the provostship of Bothwell, both being in the gift of Archibald Earl of Douglas; so designed in a charter October 24. 1426. Was afterwards *Dean of Dunkeld*; *Secretary* to King James II.; *Bishop of Dunkeld*, in 1448; Lord High Treasurer in 1449; died in 1452.—Gavin Hamilton occurs next, a son of the first Lord Hamilton. He accompanied his father to Rome, where he went to get his foundation of the collegiate church of Hamilton ratified by the Pope's bull. He took orders when advanced in life, became Provost of the collegiate church of Bothwell, of the Earl of Douglas's patronage, and is in that office 1450.

George Hepburn, a son of Adam second Lord Hailes, was made Provost of the collegiate church of Bothwell 1493. He was afterwards Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, Bishop of the Isles, and slain, with King James IV. at the battle of Flowden, 1513.

James Bethune was Provost of Bothwell 1503, afterwards Archbishop of St Andrew's.

Alexander Hepburn was Provost of Bothwell 1527, obtained a charter of the lands of Kettlestown, in the parish and county of Linlithgow, under that designation.

*Ministers since the Reformation 1560.*

Mr John Hamilton, minister of Bothwell 1574; his stipend the haill provostry of Bothwell, lately disposed \*.

Mr

\* Register of assignments of the minister's stipend, M. S. Advocates Library.



Mr Gavin Hamilton, minister, 1604.

Mr Robert Boyd, minister, 1618 and 1635.

Mr Matthew Mackell, minister, 1650, ousted at the Restoration of Charles II.

*Episcopal Ministers after the Restoration.*

Mr John Carstairs, 1660.

Dr Robert Douglas, afterwards Bishop of Dunblane, deprived at the Revolution.

Mr Alexander Kionneir, 1681.

Mr Thomas Hamilton.

Mr Robert Douglas, son to the former, and minister here at the Revolution.

*After the Revolution.*

Mr John Orr, translated to Edinburgh.

Mr William Hamilton, ordained 1709.

Mr James Hamilton, his son, ordained 1746.

Dr James Baillie, 1762; afterwards Professor of Divinity, Glasgow.

The incumbent.

*Battle of Bothwell Bridge.*—The south side of this bridge was the scene of an engagement in the reign of Charles II. 1679, between the whigs or covenanters, and the King's army, commanded by the Duke of Monmouth. The King's army advanced by the north, or Bothwell side. The covenanters, divided among themselves, were soon thrown into confusion; 400 were killed, chiefly in the pursuit, and 1200 taken prisoners. It is said that they did not expect to fight, being misinformed that the Duke was ordered to observe pacific measures. It is told by the historians of those times.

*Bothwell*



*Bothwell Haugh*—lies about a mile above the bridge, was formerly the property of James Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh, who (23d. January 1570) shot the Earl of Murray, regent, at Linlithgow. He escaped to Hamilton, and from thence to France\*.

About a quarter of a mile east from this, there is a bridge over the South Calder, judged to be of Roman construction; of one arch, high, very narrow, and without ledges. The Roman road called *Watling Street*, one of the four† famous ways that the Romans anciently made in Britain, was a few years ago in entire preservation, leading to it from the east, through Dalziel parish; but it is now scarce discernible, being removed by the course of the plough.

A mile above this, upon the banks of the same water, there is a quarry of the finest millstones in the west of Scotland. They are sent for from Carron, and other distant parts of the country.

Three miles higher, upon the north bank of the Calder, in the middle of the steep rock upon which the house of Cleland stands, is a large *natural cave*, which had been partly improved by art, capable of holding 40 or 50 men, of difficult access. The entry was secured by a door and an iron gate, fixed in the solid rock; the fire-place, and part of the chimney and floor, still remain. The tradition is, that it had been used as a place of concealment in the troublesome

\* De Thou writes, that he was solicited to assassinate the great Admiral Coligini, but refused.

† Ikenild Street, Foss, Ermin Street, and *Watling Street*; so called from one Vitellianus, supposed to have superintended the direction of it; the Britons, calling Vitellianus, in their language, Guetalin.



troublesome times of the country, as far back as the gallant patriot Sir William Wallace; perhaps by the hero himself, and his trusty band: Also during the violent feuds between the house of Cleland and Lauchope; and especially in the convulsions of this country under the Charles's.

It is an instructive monument of the happy difference between the state of our ancestors and our present situation, where tranquillity and security are inscribed upon all our habitations, from the princely dome to the humblest cottage.

About 70 years ago, a little after the accession of the present Royal Family, when their mild and gentle spirit began to be universally felt, the iron gate was taken down, the hinges torn from the rock, and, it is hoped, will never need to be repaired again.

Passing to the North Calder, the next object which attracts notice is the house of *Lauchope*. It was the seat of a very ancient family, the mother-family and chief of the Muirheads. It is an old tower-house, the walls of a prodigious thickness; part of it fell lately, and part is still inhabited. It has gone through several hands.

*Chapel*,—north-east from Lauchope, was formerly a religious house, of what order is not known.

*Temple Lands*.—The lands of Greenside and Shirrel, were of this description.

#### *Seats, — Buildings.*

The principal are,——

▮ The house of *Bothwell*, lately built, and the residence of Lord Douglas. It is a handsome edifice, stands a little east from



from the old castle, and at once commands the charming group of beauties, arising from the banks, the river, the ruins, and the adjacent country. The apartments, like the great objects that surround them, are marked with a dignified simplicity. The banks are broad and extensive; exhibit a very picturesque scene; have been much improved, of late, with pleasurable walks, huts and shrubbery. The walk from the house, along the summit of the bank, and round the ruins, is most delightful. Nature is truly Great; her steps are carefully followed, and a good taste discovered. A grove of oaks occupies one part of the banks; already considerably advanced, and will make a venerable figure in future times. The park is inclosed with a remarkably good wall. There are few places more favoured from situation, or capable of greater embellishment.

The first who had the merit to discern the beauties of these banks, even in their rude state, covered with natural wood, and to plan and commence improvements, was the late Lady Lucy Douglas\*.

With the finest moral feelings of the heart, she possessed a well-cultivated mind, and a correct taste. By arranging these natural beauties, with the aid of her husband, she produced a paradise. Here she spent her leisure hours, forgot the world, conversed with Nature, and its great Author; and participated in those pleasures which were pure, serene, and congenial to her own mind.

“ *Qui fait aimer les Champs, fait aimer la Vertu.*”

DELILLE.

*Woodball,*

\* First Lady of Lord Douglas, and sister to the present Duke of Montrose.



*Woodhall*.—the seat of Walter Campbell Esq, of Strathfield. It is situated on the banks of the river of North Calder, about five miles north-east from the church. The house is large, with some noble apartments, and a good library. The inclosures and plantations are numerous and extensive. Two avenues from the great road to Edinburgh, from the east and west, each about a mile and a half in length, passing through belvideres and sunken fences, form a fine approach. It has lately received a complete melioration from the present proprietor. A beautiful piece of water has been formed, upon the banks of which modern gardens, peach-house, vineria, and orangery, are built to a great extent. Pleasure-walks are made along the banks of the Calder, and both sides ornamented with planting. The Monkland canal adds to the scenery, and will advance the value of the coal in the estate. The fields have been laid down in great order; plantations thinned; fine vistas opened; and a more elegant and cheerful aspect given to the whole. Few places in the West of Scotland are upon a more liberal scale; few gentlemen understand the improvements and interests of their country better than the proprietor, or have done more than he upon his several seats.

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—*Beauty of Clydesdale, or, Fine Prospects.*—There are many of these in the parish. One is, the view from the west point of the village of Uddingston, down the river. It terminates upon *Dalldowie*, where nature, aided by an excellent taste, has formed one of the most beautiful places upon Clyde.

But there is another prospect which merits particular notice. It is the east brow of the hill, upon which the village of Bothwell stands. This seems to be the great promontory which nature has erected to contemplate the beauties



ices of the *Vale of Clyde*. There are none in the central line of the river above this; and after it quits this parish, it loses its noble woody banks, and generally falls into a flatness on both sides.

This eminence commands the most rich and pleasant prospect of an inland kind in Scotland. It would require the pen of a Thomson to do it justice.

On the right hand, and south side of the river, the residence of the Duke of Hamilton, called the Palace, Chatterault, and the town, appear just under the eye, amidst extensive pleasure-grounds, which may vie with many of the finest places in England. A little above this, the vale is contracted, the banks are wide and deep, with a gradual declivity on both sides, which are occupied by gentlemens seats, highly cultivated and embellished. Woods and plantations stretch along the banks. Numerous orchards are interspersed through the groves. These, in the spring, give a great part of the vale an Italian aspect, or rather,

— “The bloom of blowing *Edea* fair.”

In autumn they are richly loaded with fruits, and may be called the Garden of Scotland. Beautiful meadows covered with flocks, and rich fields of corn, adorn the holms and plains. Nature dispenses her pleasures with a liberal hand. Hill and dale, wood and water, are finely blended together. So great a collection of rural charms, variety of scenery, exquisite arrangement, and vast extent, render the whole most enchanting. The river, with its purling streams and meanders, diffuses fertility and beauty through all the vale, while villa succeeds villa, with their respective improvements, as far as the eye can reach, till the prospect, or stretch of 24 miles, terminates upon Tintoc. Twice every day the scene is highly adorned; in the morning, when the sun ascends above the noble mountain of Tintoc, and



gilds the whole vale, and when he revisits it from the opposite point in the evening.

It is a proof of a most gracious Providence, that the noblest pleasures are laid open to all. It is usual for the villager, in summer, on his great day of rest, Sunday, morning or evening, to walk out with his Bible, and repose himself on this great sofa of nature.

With luxuriant crops at his feet, under the covert of orchards behind, and this transporting entertainment before him, he forgets his weekly toils, reads the beatitudes, claims an interest in the very first;

— "And feels an inward bliss  
 " Spring o'er his mind, beyond the power of Kings  
 " To purchase."

The beauties of Bothwell banks were celebrated in *ancient song*, of which the following *incident* is a striking proof:

"So fell it out of late years", that an English gentleman, travelling in Palestine, not far from Jerusalem, as he passed through a country town, he heard by chance a woman sitting at the door, dandling her child, to sing,

"Bothwell Bank, thou bloomest fair."

"The gentleman hereat exceedingly wondered, and forthwith in English saluted the woman, who joyfully answered him, and said, She was right glad there to see a gentleman of our isle; and told him, that she was a Scotch woman, and came first from Scotland to Venice, and from Venice thither; where her fortune was to be the wife of an officer under the Turk, who being at that instant absent, and  
 very

\* Verstigan, in his *Restitution of Decayed Intelligence*, Antwerp, 1605. chap. of the Surnames of our Ancient Families,



very soon to return, she intreated the gentleman to stay there until his return; the which he did; and she, for country sake, to shew herself more kind and bountiful unto him, told her husband at his home-coming, that the gentleman was her kinsman; whereupon her husband entertained him very kindly, and at his departure gave him divers things of good value."

In confirmation of this account of the view, a good part of these banks is now occupied by two gentlemen's seats, Sweethope and Bothwell Park. They are both elegant, set down on account of the prospect, and both enjoy it in perfection.

A new line of road is formed from Hamilton to Lanark, along the south banks of the Clyde, and through the whole length of the vale; it is just finished, and makes one of the most pleasant rides in Scotland.

*Means of Improvement.*—One principal object is the communication of a greater measure of useful knowledge to the great body of the community. Parochial schools in general are not supplied with such able teachers as they were 50 years ago, owing probably to this, that they who have got a good education, find a more generous encouragement from the manufacturing or commercial departments, which formerly were upon a small scale in this country.

Parochial and public schools should be especially directed,  
1<sup>st</sup>, To the instilling of *virtuous principles*; teaching the youth an abridgment of the Christian religion; its incontestible evidence; its incomparable excellence, as securing the quiet, order, and dignity both of the individual and the community.

The great design of education is, to form the mind to the love and practice of virtue. How mournful is it to observe, that this important object seems forgotten, if not expelled



expelled from the modern plan of education. A system of religion and virtue, or any book relating to the Scriptures, is not taught in the higher or lower seminaries of learning; a few questions of a Catechism are got by rote, after the alphabet, and seldom repeated, as if it were an insult to an advanced understanding. This may justly be considered as the great cause of the *immorality of the age*. When a youth is sent abroad into the world, without a rational persuasion of the importance of religion; of his obligations to virtue; destitute of one argument to defend himself against the attacks of its adversaries, what can be expected, but that he will fall an easy prey to the allurements of vice. Hence, in high life, infidelity and impiety; in lower ranks, mistaken views of religion, bigotry and superstition, instead of the weightier matters of the law.

What a reproach to this age, with all its boasted improvements in arts, in philosophy, and under the last dispensation of Heaven, to be outdone by ancient heathens in their plan of education. They taught their youth deeds, and not words: they enforced justice, generosity, magnanimity, all the virtues. Hence the illustrious characters they reared in all stations and capacities, hitherto, alas! unequalled in any succeeding age.

Quid musæ sine moribus vana proficiant?

If ever a *reformation* takes place, it must be by a *virtuous education* of youth. Laws may secure external order, but can never *amend the heart* \*.

Since writing the above, the last General Assembly (1794) have enjoined, that a more particular attention shall be paid in parochial schools to teaching the youth the principles

\* See Dr Hardy's excellent Sermon at the opening of the General Assembly 1794.



principles of religion. But the evil is of great magnitude, and requires an adequate remedy.

When the virtuous Pilot has brought the vessel of State through the perilous storms that assault it, safe into the haven of peace, would it not be a task worthy of his head and heart, to invigorate the salutary rules respecting schools and colleges; to add new ones, if judged expedient; pointing the whole to the effectual establishment of a system of national virtue. What so likely to secure the noble purpose of the Royal proclamation? What more desirable to the most virtuous Sovereign in the world, who, by a thousand daily proofs, shows, that the virtue, felicity, and glory of his people, is the supreme and constant wish of his heart!

The present alarming effects of a long *unprincipled*, though *fashionable education*, in a neighbouring country, holds forth an *awful admonition to the nations*.

2. The Latin language ought ever to be held as an indispensable qualification, else youths of genius may lose the only opportunity of rising in the world; persons indifferently qualified will be put into the office of schoolmasters; and literature at last will be banished from the country. Besides this, the youth should be taught the principles of reading and writing the English language with propriety; the principles of history; principles of geography; principles of mechanics; the practical parts of mathematics; and,

3. The principles of *agriculture*: The rudiments of which may be reduced to as simple a scale, and be as easily taught, as book-keeping. It is now taught in the university of Edinburgh. A small compend may be made, and illustrations procured on the most material parts, and communicated to the youth, when his understanding is sufficiently opened, and he is about to leave the school, and betake himself to the employment of agriculture.

This



This method would create a taste for agriculture among the youth of our country ; an emulation would take place from the school. The young farmer would rejoice to enter upon, and excel in the profession of his fathers ; he would acquaint his father with the principles of the science he had learned ; the father, in return, would confirm them, with the sage observations he had made in the course of a long experience ; prejudices would be removed, important knowledge respecting the art would be circulated ; a noble enthusiasm for agricultural improvements would be diffused through every parish. Premiums from the Board of Agriculture to the more ingenious and industrious, would give the design additional efficacy and success.

This country is employed in agriculture, manufactures, and commerce. The education should be adapted to these objects. Academies, upon a similar plan, established in towns, and endowed with proper salaries, would be much for the benefit of the public. The bulk of mankind have neither time nor money to procure a liberal education ; a scheme of this kind brings instruction within their reach, and tends to reconcile them to it ; would produce genius and improvements in mechanics, manufactures, in all professions ; and communicate to the generality of the people various branches of knowledge, of which they are at present destitute.

The foundation being thus established upon a well conducted education, it may be proper to add some of these means which might improve the present state of agriculture in the parish. Let it suffice to name the most obvious.

*Hedge-rows and Inclosures.*—Though these abound in the parish, it is to be wished they were reared with attention, and made more perfect. Hedge-rows, of so long use  
in



in England, have had a considerable influence to bring that soil to its high state of improvement. This country, from its bleak situation, and thin air, requires warmth to nourish its plants.

*A Belt of Wood round the Farm-house* would be an improvement.

These circular clumps, rising here and there amidst inclosed fields and lawns, would not only shelter, but give the whole country the look of a most extensive pleasure-ground.

*To moderate the high Price of Wages* is a most important object of good policy. The seat of manufactures being in the neighbourhood is not a sufficient plea; the wages have been high before the manufactures were so flourishing; and there is still a great number who, from early habits, prefer the labours of the field. Gentlemen in other counties have established proper regulations for this article, and it is certainly the interest of gentlemen and landholders to confine this charge within due bounds.

*The Two-horse Plough* would save the one half both of men and horses, and especially the consumpt of oats. The oats consumed by three or four horses upon a small farm must be very great. Lord Kames has calculated, that the quantity of oats consumed yearly by the work-horses in Scotland, amounts in value to L. 261,940, 16 s.

*The Leases for two 19 Years* are most preferable. They give encouragement to the farmer to expend liberally in improvements, because he considers it as a patrimony to his family. He trusts, that what he throws away his son will recover with increase. Short leases and poor farmers  
are



are the great bars to improvements. If it is objected, that an advance of rent is expected at the end of the first 19 years, that may be agreed upon at certain periods of the lease; and if judiciously managed for 38 years, it would be worth a third or a half more than it was at the beginning.

*A more favourable Rotation* would be highly advantageous; a great deal more in grass, and less in tillage. This would be the easiest method to put farms into good order, and to keep them in it. The half of seed, labour, and manure might be spared; the work done in proper season, and at the half of the expence.

*A generous Indulgence upon the part of the Proprietor* to the tenant may sometimes be very expedient; remitting him some part, or allowing some deduction, in proportion to his liberal improvements. It is not requisite, where farms are in good order; but considering the general condition of tenants, it is impossible farms can be improved otherwise. Whereas, if such a measure was adopted for 8 or 9 years, at the beginning of the lease, the farmer would be enabled to apply a double quantity of manure, and thereby greatly advance the value of the ground\*.

But

\* A gentleman of property in the neighbourhood, since these remarks, has favoured the writer with a few lines, representing, in strong terms, the injury done by hunters to the farmers in this parish. He observes, that the exercise should be confined to an open country, and dry fields; for, if pursued in a deep loamy soil, as here, the damage may soon be very great, involving wheat, sown grass, hedges, and all vegetation in ruin. In a word, he does not know a greater grievance than a poor farmer labours under. The hint deserves notice; it comes from a gentleman who is dressing his farm with a degree of taste equal to any in the country. To this, perhaps, it will be said, that gentlemen must have their sport. Not, with all deference to that noble and ancient profession, may it not be asked,



But for these, and more essential improvements, we look to the Board of Agriculture, where, from the distinguished abilities, zeal, and application of the Honourable President and his coadjutors, and the countenance of our most gracious Sovereign, there is good reason to expect, that the greatest benefit will accrue to the country.

Farmers here, and in the neighbourhood, have been for some time subject to inconveniencies. The advantages arising from their nearness to Glasgow are of late impaired, granaries being established there, and supplied with English and foreign grain, the brewer and baker are furnished in larger quantities, and upon a certain credit. The small portion of the farmer meets not with so hearty a reception as formerly. The price of wheat, it has been observed, is suppressed till after Candlemas, when most of the small farmers are obliged to dispose of it. The value of their crops have not increased in proportion to the manufactures about them; servants wages high; manure scarce, and the price advanced; a supply of horses not to be had, but at a very considerable charge.

“ Pater ipse colendi  
“ Haud facilem esse viam voluit.”

VIRG.

He, therefore, who disseminates the principles of sound knowledge among his fellow-citizens, and from thence produces the most liberal crops of industry and virtue, this is the *true Patriot*, who confers the noblest blessings upon his country, and merits immortal praise.

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asked, must the virtuous industry of a poor family be forfeited for mere amusement, the fruits of the earth destroyed, and a bar put to those improvements which are justly become the object of national concern? There is no gentleman but will reply, that nothing can be more distant from their sentiments. What pity then, but some regulations were made by these gentlemen themselves, to prevent such ravages, and to secure soils of a certain description, which nature meant not to be sported with. The measure is much wanted, and would be highly conducive to the police of the country.



## NUMBER XVIII.

## PARISH OF RAFFORD,

(SYNOD OF MORAY, COUNTY OF ELGIN, AND PRESBYTERY  
OF FORRES.)

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM STEPHEN, Minister.*

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*Name.*

**I**N the course of time, the name of this parish has undergone some variation. About the beginning of the 13th century, in a charter from Pope Innocent to Bricius bishop of Moray, it is denominated *Ecclesia de Ruffus*. How long this had been the received orthography, seems not very clear; but from the commencement of our presbyterial record in 1651, I find it written, at successive periods, *Raffart*, *Raffard*, and for about 60 years back, almost invariably *Rafford*. Being no adept, however, in the ancient Celtic or Gaelic languages, I will hazard no conjecture about its true etymology.

*Situation,*



*Situation, &c.*—It is situated in the county of Elgin, presbytery of Forres, and Synod of Moray; extends from N. E. to S. W. above 8 English miles in length, and from 5 to 3 miles in breadth. On the E. it is bounded by the parishes of Alves and Elgin; on the S. by those of Dallas and Edinkillie; on the W. by the river Findhorn, and the parish of Forres; and on the N. by that of Kinlofs.

*Soil, &c.*—The face of the country is much diversified; part of it being low, flat, and fertile; part of it elevated, moorish, and rocky. The complexion of the soil, too, is various; consisting of a deep and rich clay, a hot and blowing sand, a black and shallow mould, bottomed with rock; though the greater part is composed of a rough brown gravel, where the bottom is a continued stratum of small pebbles, so closely compacted that no ploughshare almost can pierce it, and having the appearance of calcination.

*Climate, &c.*—The air can hardly be said to possess any specific quality; it is rather dry than moist, rather healthy than otherwise. The most prevalent *distempers*, at least such as generally prove most fatal, are fevers, consumptions, and asthmas; these may partly be owing to the heat and dryness of the soil, to the close and smoky air of the dwellings, as well as to the nature of the food, especially potatoes, on which, for several months of the year, many of the poorer class are almost wholly sustained.

*Hills.*—The *bills*, none of which are remarkable for height, are chiefly covered with heath, furze, whins, and juniper. They produce abundance of excellent peat, turf, fallen fir, and other fuel, and afford extensive pasturage for sheep and black cattle.

*Minerals.*



*Minerals.*—Here are two valuable *quarries*, the one of freestone, the other of grey slate, both of which are deemed inexhaustible. The access to both is easy, and the materials are much esteemed in building, for their easiness in working and durability.

*Cattle.*—The native breed of cattle is small; an ordinary ox or cow seldom outweighing 70 or 80 lbs. a-quarter. The horses are very indifferent, except with the best farmers. Sheep are numerous, small sized, and mostly white; their wool is fine, and the mutton very delicate.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report in 1755, the population of Rafford then amounted to 1313 souls. From an accurate list taken in 1791, the number of parishioners did not exceed 1072; of these 488 were males, and 584 females; about 840 were found examinable, *i. e.* above 7 years old. The number of householders was exactly 238; of whom 136 were married, and had issue; 16 were married, and had no issue; 18 were widowers; 48 widows; the remaining 20 unmarried, and 5 of them bachelors. The annual medium of births for the last 7 years, as they stand on the record, may be computed at 32; of marriages, at 8: But of the deaths no exact register has been kept, owing chiefly to that reluctance with which the tax on burials was paid by country people\*.

*Poor.*—About 40 poor are supplied from the parish funds. Our capital stock is L. 50 Sterling, and our weekly collections amount from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s.

#### *Longevity.*

\* The late taxes on births, baptisms, marriages, burials, &c. are now repealed.



*Longevity.*—Few of the natives are remarkable for longevity. There are now only about three individuals in the parish whose ages exceed 80, and the generality of old men seldom attain that period.

*Agriculture.*—The bulk of the people are employed in agriculture, and some have pretty extensive farms, though few have begun to inclose their grounds, or to lay down green crops. This defect may be partly owing to want of due encouragement, as well as to ancient prejudice, to which last cause it is perhaps too often ascribed. Of late, indeed, several of the farmers have built decent houses, for which they have an allowance from the landlord, and a spirit of improvement begins to prevail. Those whose farms are in good order, yoke two horses only in a plough, with which an expert hand will make very neat and excellent work; but the greatest number discover a predilection for oxen, of which they generally couple 6 together, and in the hilly parts, (or as they are called provincially *the braes*), where the farms are small and the tenants poor, the yoke is frequently composed of two cows, and two horses to lead.

*Occupations, &c.*—Spinning flax is the great occupation of the females, most of which they raise at home, and make into sheeting, diaper, and sackcloth; for little of the native growth is fine enough for shirting. Many of the poorer class, too, support themselves by spinning to yarn-merchants, who allow them from 10 d. to 1 s. *per* spindle.

Of *bandicraftsmen* weavers are the most numerous class, amounting to 16 or 17, including journeymen and apprentices. There are 4 tailors; 3 blacksmiths; 3 millers; 5 joiners, and some of the farmers work in wood, and make their



their own ploughs, harrows, carts, and other implements of husbandry.

*Religion.*—All the parishioners, (excepting two or three families, who belong to the Secession), profess the Established Religion, and are very punctual in their attendance at church. Viewed in this light, they appear, upon the whole, a sensible, decent, and serious people. In former times, indeed, the high and mystical doctrines of Calvinism being universally taught, and admired as the only system of orthodox belief, had disseminated among the ignorant a spirit of wildness and bigotry; but this, for more than half a century past, has been gradually subsiding; and it is humbly hoped, that the rigid and fallible dogmas of men will no longer be substituted for the pure and rational truths of the gospel. On the other hand, as no earthly community is perfect, the most prevalent vices I have had occasion to remark in this, are falsehood, intemperance, sensuality, and petty thefts; these perhaps will be found most congenial to mild and temperate climates.

*Heritors, &c.*—The heritors are the Earl of Moray, proprietor of Tarras and Cluny; the Honourable Lewis Duff of Blervie; Alexander Penrose Cumming of Altyre, and Joseph Dunbar of Grange, Esquires. The valued rent of the parish amounts to L. 2612 : 18 : 10 Scots; and the annual rent, of which a great part is victual, may be estimated, *communibus annis*, about L. 1600 Sterling.

*Estates, &c.*—The Earl of Moray, though he has no family seat, holds some of the finest lands in the parish; his people, too, surpass most of their neighbours in the decent appearance of their houses, and the order in which they keep their grounds. In Tarras they raise plentiful crops of wheat,



barley, oats, pease, beans,—flax and potatoes; these last are found an useful mean of improvement. The mode of preparation is this: An exhausted field is let out in parcels, rent free, to poor people in the neighbourhood, who on their part furnish the manure, labour the ground by trenching it with the spade, plant and reap the crop. In this manner, the bottom soil, which is a strong clay, being exposed and meliorated, acquires a degree of fertility which it does not lose for years after. The oats produced here are of a superior kind, and highly esteemed for sowing. The lands of Cluny, situated in the hilly part of the parish, are somewhat cold and backward; the soil, however, is powerful, and the corn pretty good of its quality, and the whole estate is accommodated with abundance of fuel and pasturage. Here is the slate-quarry formerly mentioned, which is rented from the proprietor by the tacksman of the farm wherein it lies, and by him let out to the quarriers, at the rate of 40 s. *per* 1000 rough slates.

The barony of Blervie is a valuable estate, comprehending large and fertile fields of corn, which produce grain of an excellent quality, especially barley, oats, and rye. There are considerable tracts of moorish and hilly ground upon it, where the pasture in general is very dry and salubrious. It is also well supplied with fuel; for though in some places, by the abuse of those who have long had servitudes upon them, the peat-mosses have suffered dilapidation, yet in others they still remain unbroken; and wherever the proprietor's people find a deficiency of peat, they have recourse upon the moors, which furnish them with turf sufficient to make up their annual complement. Mr Duff has built a very neat modern house, which he has greatly ornamented, by planting the adjoining hills, improving his farm, and laying out his fields to advantage. The ancient family



family seat belonging to the Dunbars, is mostly demolished; all that remains of it being a high tower, which, standing on elevated ground, commands an immense prospect, including almost the whole Moray Frith, with a great part of the counties of Elgin, Nairn, Inverness, Cromarty, Ross, Sutherland and Caithness.

Eastward from this about two miles, stands the castle of Burgee, the seat of Dunbar of Grange. It is a large and beautiful fabric, consisting of a square tower of six storeys, built in 1602, and an adjoining mansion founded about a century later. The gardens occupy several acres, contain a variety of fruit-trees, and are skirted with double rows of fine spreading beeches. In approaching this place, which is very conspicuous, the mind is powerfully impressed with an idea of ancient magnificence. Here is the freestone quarry alluded to page 340. from which, though great quantities of materials are constantly taken, the proprietor derives almost no pecuniary advantage. It is further remarkable, that though Mr Dunbar's rental has sustained little or no alteration for more than 80 years; though the whole of his lands are very improvable, and abound with every needful accommodation; yet his people are not affluent, their farms are poorly cultivated, and their houses mean. These defects must doubtless in some measure be attributed to want of leases, which, on account of certain family embarrassments, that gentlemen is not disposed to grant them. Being restricted, too, from cutting peat in the mosses of Burgie, they consume a great part of the summer in providing their fuel, which they must bring from the mosses of Altyre in the opposite extremity of the parish, where Grange has a servitude. This inconvenience still further aggravates the want of agricultural improvement in his estate.

Altyre



Altyre was formerly a distinct parish, belonging to the parsonage of Dallas, and was annexed to Rafford by act of Parliament 1661. The walls of the old church remain entire, which till of late, that Mr Cumming erected a new tomb, had been the burying-place of his ancestors time out of mind. The Cummings of Logie, who are a branch of this family, and most of the ancient residents, still continue to bury here. The soil of Altyre is generally thin, but sharp and productive. It commands a prodigious extent of hill and pasturage, and the peat-mosses are inexhaustible. The present proprietor has brought his farm into the highest order, and observes a judicious rotation of green and corn crops, which seldom fail to be rich and abundant. He has planted about 1000 acres, with fir and other timber, which are advancing rapidly and decorating the place. The family seat is an old plain building, with two neat modern wings, and though well fitted up and commodious, is not suitable to that style displayed by its ingenious owner everywhere around it. Of late, however, he has adopted the idea of building a new mansion, on a very superb and elegant plan. Here is a spacious garden, abounding with a variety of excellent fruit and culinary stuffs. On the north and east it is inclosed with a high wall, which is covered with a number of fine espaliers, consisting of apples, pears, cherries, plumbs, apricots, nectarines, peaches, &c. all of the rarest kinds, and most exquisite flavour. For some time, Colonel Cumming has resided, with his family, in Tarres, where he has a fine house and a considerable property.

*Church, Stipend, &c.*—The church is nearly central, being situated about 3 miles south-east from Tarres; it was rebuilt in 1754; and the manse in 1746. In the times



of Diocesan Episcopacy, this was the feat of the subchanter of Moray. Miss Brodie of Lethen is patron. The stipend, by decret in 1752, is 76 bolls 3 firlots barley, and L. 349 : 13 : 4 Scots, including 100 merks for communion-elements. A process of augmentation is now depending before the Court of Teinds.—The salary of the school is 16 bolls of bear; it has long been in a flourishing state. By his unremitting attention to the morals as well as proficiency of his pupils, during a period of more than 40 years, the present teacher has acquired a just degree of celebrity. Many characters now respectable in the literary, the commercial, the civil, and military departments, among others the learned Rector of the High School of Edinburgh, who is a native, received their classical education here.

*Obelisk.*—The only piece of antiquity worthy of remark, is the standing pillar near Tarres, commonly called Sueno's Stone. It is allowed by all journalists who have viewed it, to surpass, in elegance and grandeur, all the other obelisks in Scotland, and is said to be the finest monument of the Gothic kind to be seen in Europe. Some time ago, when it was like to fall, Lady Anne Campbell, late Countess of Moray, caused it to be set upright, and supported with several steps of freestone. The height of this stone cannot now be easily ascertained; it rises about 23 feet above ground, and is said to be 12 under it. Its breadth is about 4 feet. What is above ground is visibly divided, on the east side, into seven parts, containing a variety of military sculptures. The greatest part of the other side is occupied by a sumptuous cross, under which are two august personages in an attitude of reconciliation.



The Reverend Mr Cordiner of Banff, in his letters to Mr Pennant on the antiquities and scenery of the north of Scotland, has exhibited a fine drawing of this monument, and his remarks on it appear to be more satisfactory than any I have read. He supposes it to have been erected in memory of the peace concluded between Malcom and Canute, upon the final retreat of the Danes from the kingdom. This event is said to have happened about the year 1012.

But to whatever transaction it may allude, it can hardly be imagined, that in so early an age of the arts in Scotland as it must have been raised, so elaborate a performance would have been undertaken but in consequence of an event of the most general importance. It is therefore surprising, that no more distinct traditions of it reached to the era when letters were known.

NUM.



## NUMBER XIX.

## UNITED PARISHES

OF

## WHITSOM AND HILTON,

(COUNTY OF BERWICK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOT-  
DALE, AND PRESBYTERY OF CHURNSIDE),

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE CUPPLES, Minister of Swinton.*

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*Situation, &c.*

THE united parishes of Whitsom and Hilton, in the presbytery of Chirnside, Berwickshire, are conjectured to extend in length from W. to E. about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles English; from S. to N. the breadth does not exceed  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles. They are bounded by Edrom parish on the W. and on the N.; by the parish of Hutton on the E.; and by Swinton and Ladykirk on the S.

*Farms,*



*Farms, &c.*—They contain the following farms ; in enumerating and describing which, I begin from the west, and go eastward.

1. The first I shall take notice of is West-laws, the property of Robert Hepburn of Clerkington, Esq; consisting of about 665 acres ; the rent of which is only L. 140, upon a lease ; which, from change of times, has proved most disadvantageous to the proprietor, without much enriching the humane, but indolent tenant ; as the lease soon expires, it will no doubt be more than tripled. West-laws contains a great deal of fertile, dry, and well-exposed grounds ; but much of it marshy and wet, and many neglected fields, over-run with whins, &c. but very capable of being improved, when a new lease and an enterprising tenant shall fall to its share. The farmer's old, plain, and unadorned mansion, office houses, and the cottages of his hinds and dependents, form a little village on one of these long eminences with which this part of the country abounds, from which elevation the farm derives its name ; this situation commands a fine prospect, and may easily be rendered dry and commodious.

2. West Newton, the property of Charles Buchan, Esq; consists of 250 acres, rented at L. 130, upon a new lease, (for it has long been occupied by the present tenant and his father), which commenced at Whitfunday 1794, the validity of which is now disputed by the proprietor, in a process before the Court of Session. Seventy acres of it are bad, extremely so, being moory and marshy, from the watery situation of the farm, which renders it often inaccessible from most quarters ; it is usually called Buchan's Isle.

3. East



3. East Newton, the property of James Dickson of Anton's-hill, Esq; consists of about 250 acres, much exceeding indeed in moisture, but containing more good, dry, and fertile ground than the former. It is rented at L. 160, upon a lease nearly expiring; and this farm, along with 17 detached acres at the north-east corner of it, rented at L. 17, and amounting, with the rent of East Newton, to L. 177, constitutes the property of Mr Dickson in this parish at present.

4. Langrigg is, as its name implies, a long narrow strip of land, consisting of 155 acres Scots measure, or 186 English. It is low, but well improved and skilfully cultivated, as it has very long been in the occupation of the proprietor, its rent cannot be precisely ascertained, but it is not over-rated in its present state at L. 1 Sterling *per* acre, and of course gives L. 186. It is the property of Joshua Tart, Esq; and gives a vote for a Member of Parliament. This estate pays only 6 s. 8 d. to the minister, the supposed conversion of a boll of oats of old; the new stipend not yet localled.

5. Ravelaw and East-Laws, the property of Sir Alexander Don, Baronet, occupied in one farm, consists of 466 acres, the rent of which is L. 372. Along with some wet, marsh, low lying ground, it contains no small proportion of good, fertile, dry, and well exposed ground, well improved, and skilfully cultivated.

6. In our progress, there occur certain small portions of ground, too small to constitute a farm, yet not to be omitted in this account of the parish. 1<sup>st</sup>, the 17 detached acres at the north-east corner of East Newton, already mentioned as part of the property of James Dickson, Esq; occupied by one family; these few acres are exceedingly  
fertile,



fertile, and well improved, rented, as before stated, at L. 17. Adjoining to which, on the east, lies a feu of John Bowmaker's, about 11 acres, now occupied by an ingenious cart-wheel and plough-wright and smith, the only considerable mechanic in this parish; his rent L. 14 Sterling; these acres are remarkably good and well cultivated; they reach to the glebe of Whitfom on the east, which glebe is rather incommoded by a feu of a small fraction of an acre, and a house upon it, inhabited by one old woman on the north of the manse; and still more effectually has this glebe been hurt by clay huts; a small inclosure of 4 good acres, now rented at L. 6, on the south side of the glebe, (which the ministers of this parish had very long possessed at a small rent), being taken from them on a pique of the Laird of Wedderburn, and the resumption ratified by the Court of Session; it now belongs to the Earl of Wemyss.

7. Handie's-hill, a gradually ascending ridge of a considerable length, leads from the manse eastward to the village of Whitfom. Handie's hill belongs to the Earl of Wemyss, and is one of these farms afterwards to be mentioned, as constituting the very considerable farm occupied by John Hogarth.

18. The village of Whitfom, the only one now in the united parishes, is very inconsiderable, and has no trade nor manufacture of any kind; it is principally formed by the house and offices of the farmer of Whitfom on the west end; the house and offices of a feuer at the east end; a fine modern house of a feuer on the south east; the school-master's house and school, with a few private weavers and shoemakers, these constitute the whole village, which contains 143 souls. The farm at the west end of Whitfom belongs to ——— Boswell of Blackadder, Esq; rented at  
L. 342,



L. 342, for not many more than 342 acres. The feu at the east end of Whitfom belongs to John Cunningham, who occupies also Aitchison's feu; these two feus contain 38 acres, well worth as many pounds. The feu on the south side is John Herriot's, of 60 acres, which are rather undervalued at a guinea an acre, equal to L. 63. Indeed, all the lands about this village are most fertile excellent soil, and fine exposure.

9. We shall next enumerate the farms occupied by an opulent and considerable farmer, John Hogarth, under the Earl of Wemyss, their proprietor:

1<sup>st</sup>, Hurdie's-hill, already mentioned, which contains 5 families, and forms a sort of suburbs on the west end of Whitfom.

2<sup>d</sup>, Hilton, about three-fourths of a mile to the east of Whitfom, formerly a small village, with a kirk and manse, both now in ruins, in consequence of the annexation and the different arrangements made by the farmers. The whole old parish, exclusive of Tandinfield, contains only 9 families, consisting of 50 souls.

3<sup>d</sup>, The West Vaults, which, along with East Vaults, under another tenant, contains 28 souls in 7 families.

4<sup>th</sup>, Cantrigg and Deadrigg, on the south side of the parish, containing 29 souls in seven families. All these are most fertile ground, especially near the old village of Hilton, where the fields are not exceeded in fertility by any part of the county at a distance from the towns.

10. South of Hilton lies Tandinfield, the property of Anthony Foster, Esq; occupied by a farmer, who does not reside upon it. It contains 270 acres, rented at L. 220: The soil, exposure, and cultivation excellent, as the name seems to imply; containing, in 7 families, 32 souls.

11. On



11. On the north of Hilton, on Hilton-hill, lies Myresides, well named from its low, marshy situation, divided into two parts, one of them a feu of George Purves, consisting of about 20 acres, supposed equal to L. 15; and a small farm of about 40 acres, part of Mr Boswell's estate, which pays L. 38 of rent to the proprietor, and L. 6 to an old farmer for quitting it to the present tenant.

12. Immediately north of Myreside lies the farm of Dykelhead, the soil much inferior to the soil of Hilton and Tondinfield, and rented low accordingly at L. 132, part of Mr Boswell's estate, as is likewise now French-Law, within these few weeks purchased by him from a Mr Scott of Alnwick, at nearly 40 years purchase, rather from its contiguity to his other grounds, than its fertility, which is certainly, however, superior to Dykelhead; it is conjectured to have got its name from the French, either as allies or foes, having made a neighbouring eminence their station while in this part of the country; the rent is L. 50. To the north of it lies Moorhouse, a very small detached piece of ground belonging to the same proprietor; the most northerly, and the very worst soil in the parish.

13. North-west of Dykelhead and French-Law, the feu of Leethead, belonging to Robert Chirnside, consists of 44 acres, most of it good fertile ground, well worth L. 1 Sterling *per acre*. Here rises Leet, which, inconsiderable as it is, is the only stream which has obtained a name in this parish; it is minutely described in the account of Swinton, where it becomes more considerable.

14. Due east of Hilton-hill lies the large extensive farm of Wynnefield, called so from Wynne Johnstone, Esq; its late proprietor, and now the property of the Earl of



Wemyss. Wynnefield consists of 650 acres. The farmer's house is a little more than an English mile upon a public road, very gradually sloping from Hilton-hill, and the fertility and value of the land sensibly declines as it recedes from Hilton; and this decrease in the goodness of the soil is most perceptible on the north side of the road.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the population in 1755 was 399. At present, this parish contains in all 590 souls; of which number, 206 are men; 246 women; and 139 children at or about 10 years of age. One of these men is 93, and one woman 94; this old woman is found and healthy, and as she came in with the century, so there is good reason to believe she may see it out.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The present incumbent is Mr John Waugh, in the 82d year of his age. He was ordained a dissenting minister in Alnwick in 1743, and admitted minister of Whitson at Whitsunday 1755; he is a widower, and has 3 children; the eldest, a daughter, married to the minister of Swinton; the second, Robert Waugh, surgeon of the 93d regiment; and the third, John Waugh, minister of Menmoor in Angus-shire, in the presbytery of Brechin. The stipend, by a very recent augmentation, now modified, but not localled, is in money L. 82 0 0  
 And for communion-elements now given, 5 0 0  
 Along with two small bolls of wheat, value 2 0 0  
 One chalder of barley, value in money 12 0 0  
 One chalder oat-meal, value ditto - 12 16 0

The whole being - - - L. 113 16 0  
 With two glebes, amounting together to 28  
 acres, well worth L. 1, 10 s. per acre, or 42 16 0

L. 155 16 0  
 The



The annexation, which had been some years before decreed, took place in 1735, by the translation of Mr George Home from Hilton to Whittingham in East Lothian. Mr Waugh's immediate predecessor in Whitfom was a Mr Calder, brother of Cadwaller Calder, Esq; author of a very neat account of the Five Nations of Canada. The church was, in my remembrance, a miserable thatched building, which, though now slated, is still very ill seated, narrow and incommodious. It will be acceptable to all concerned, if the Earl of Wemyss, patron and principal proprietor, resume a plan of John Stewart, Esq; his predecessor in the estate of Vaults, and in the patronage of Whitfom, (as Robert Johnston, Esq; of Hilton was in the estate and patronage of Hilton), of building a handsome church upon Handie's-hill, a most commodious situation both for the villagers and the parish at large, and not more remote from the manse than the present church, which is most inconveniently detached both from the village and from the manse. All the parishioners are staunch Presbyterians, either of the Establishment or of the Secession; the Seceders are not above 1 in 12 in proportion to the adherers to the Kirk.

*Poor.*—The poor have, till very lately, been supported by the ordinary collections on Sunday, and the box was rather rich; but of late a very slender tax has become necessary.

*School.*—The schoolmaster of the united parish has a salary of about from L. 8 to L. 9 Sterling, a house, a school, and a very small garden, with kirk-dues, and some perquisites arising from his collecting the road-money. However, by the prudent choice of schoolmasters, some able teachers have occupied this place, and have had great numbers of scholars in penmanship, languages, mathematics, and the practical



## NUMBER XX.

## PARISH OF PETERCULTER,

(COUNTY, SYNOD, AND PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE MARK, Minister.**Origin of the Name.*

THE latter part of the name is variously written, as fancy suggests. By some it is written *Coulter*; others write *Culture*, &c. In our oldest parish-register, which begins with the year 1674, it is uniformly written *Culter*. This, probably, is nearest to the original word, which seems to be a Gaelic compound, consisting of *cul*, "the back," and *tir*, "a country\*."

*Extent,*

\* To account for this etymology, it is to be observed, that the parish-church stands on the north bank of the river Dee, which separates two large tracts of country. Near to the church are ferry-boats, which connect the lines of communication between the two countries. Here are  
united



*Extent, &c.*—From the east point, this parish stretches S. W. and W. 8 miles. Towards the intermediate point, where

united several roads, which lead from different points, and here is the chief passage across the river, next to the bridge of Dee, from which it bears west about 6 measured miles.—Gaelic had certainly been the language of the inhabitants at a very early period; and when they travelled from the north into the south, or from the south into the north, they would naturally say, they were going to *cul tìr*, the back or extremity of the country.—When Popery became the established religion, chapels had been built on the opposite sides of the river, and dedicated to their respective saints, Mary and Peter; and to the names of these saints, the ancient name of the place had been added. To them were consecrated, not only the chapels, but the nearest wells; the one called the *Lady's*, and the other *Peter's* well. A few paces from the church there is a high and steep bank, called *Peter's beugh*. I am inclined to think that the name of the parish is Gaelic, because several places in it, and around it, do evidently derive their names from that language. For instance, south-west from the church is the barony of Kenarty, or Kean-ardé; so called from the ancient seat of the barons, which was situated on the top of a small eminence, at the extremity of higher ground. As we go eastward to Aberdeen, next to the estate of Culter, by the lands of Murtle, so called from *mar* (or *muir*) *tìl*, "the turn or reflux of the sea." The tides, when they rise highest, do not now reach within two or three miles of these lands; but it is probable that some centuries back, they had flowed that far. In several places the sea has receded, and a recess of it has been observed at Aberdeen. Besides, the progress of the tides might be obstructed by the Dee shifting its bed; or by the great quantity of mud, sand and stones, carried down with its rapid streams.—As we proceed towards Aberdeen, the next estate is called Cults, or Cultis, from *cul*, "the back," and *teas* or *deas*, "south;" it having a warm exposure to the south, and a hill behind it, to shelter it from the north and north-east. Its situation answers to the situation of a place called Sunnyside. In the north corner of the parish there is a farm called Leuchar, which signifies a place where rushes grow. On that farm they abound. In the north side of the parish there is a farm called *Auchlee*, in Gaelic *Auch-laodh*, i. e. "Calf-field." It had been noted for rearing calves.—Many more instances could be given. In proceeding to the westward, I find the names of places, except those which are modern, to be Gaelic, or translations from it.



where it is indented by Dalmaik, it does not extend above 5 or six miles. It is in many places 5 or 6 miles broad. This parish is of a very irregular form. The burn of Leuchar or Culter, parts it into three divisions; the west, and the south and east divisions. That burn flows from the Loch of Skene southward, and after dividing the parishes of Lecht and Skene in that quarter, it turns eastward along a large tract of peat-moss, called Leuchar-moss; and there it gets the name of Leuchar-burn. Proceeding towards the south-east 3 miles, it is in that course the boundary between the parish of Skene and the west division of this parish\*. It then receives the burn of the Ord, and runs, in a line almost at right angles to its former direction, from a south-west corner of Skene, to a north-east corner of Dalmaik; so that it quite intersects this parish, which is there only a mile and a-half broad. At the N.E. of Dalmaik, the burn of Gormack falls into it; and then it is called the Burn of Culter. Thence it directs its course sometimes eastward, sometimes southward, and washing part of Dalmaik, and the north-east side of the barony of Kenarty, falls into Dee at the south-east corner of the glebe†.—The west

\* Leuchar-burn, prior to its junction with the Burn of Ord, passes through an extensive flat, partly meadow, partly swamp, and some of it arable. But it is so liable to inundations that none of it can be ploughed but in a very dry season. At the end of the flat there is a cataract. Some time ago, a mason was employed to cut the rock and deepen the channel, that the plain might be drained. By some defect, however, in the plan or execution, or in both, the end was not attained.

† I have been the more particular in tracing the course of the Burn of Culter and Leuchar, because in that tract a canal might be formed between the river Dee and Loch Skene. Into the north corner of that lake runs a pretty large stream, after gliding through a smooth valley near to



west division approaches to the figure of the larger segment of an half-ellipse, and is separated from Dalmaik by the Gormack-burn, which makes an oval sweep from the N. W. to the N. E. point. Its length is 3 miles, its greatest breadth as many; but it diminishes at the north-west boundary, to a quarter of a mile. It contains ten ploughs. Culter burn separates the estate of Culter from the barony of Kenarty, which makes the second or south division of the parish, extending from the burn to the south-west, beyond the church of Dalmaik. In that direction it is above 3 miles long. In some places it is 2 miles broad, in others 1 mile; and towards the south-west boundary, it is not many paces in breadth.—The eastern division may be said to be a many-sided *trapezium*. Its breadth from N. to S. is 5 or 6 miles; except on the W. side, towards the burn of Leuchar, where it diminishes to 3 miles, and at last to the half of that measure. From E. to W. it measures from 5 to 3 miles. This is the largest division, and comprehends the estates of Culter and Countesswells, and the lands of Murtle.—The figure of the parish being so irregular, it would be difficult to compute its square contents. There was never any survey made of it, except of Countesswells and Murtle.

to the seat of the Honourable Mr Duff of Echt, and to the house of Skene. By means of this, and other streams, the communication might be carried forward, between Castle-Fraser and Kemnay, to the river Don, joining it not far from the termination of the intended canal betwixt Aberdeen and Monymusk. When we consider the present state of the country, its population, improvement, opulence, commerce, &c. the construction of such a canal seems to be a remote event; but it may, like other events of a similar nature, be anticipated by the contemplative mind.



*Surface, Soil, Climate, &c.*—The face of the parish is very rugged and uneven, with slopes and hollows, rocky eminences and marshy flats interspersed. Here and there stands a small conical hill or a conical ridge, surrounded with arable ground or with swamps, traversed sometimes by a rivulet. Towards the river, the uncultivated ground is covered with furze and broom; the furze predominates. As we retire from the river northward, there is much moor-ground, covered with short heath, and scattered bushes of broom and furze. In two of the higher hills, which are not, however, of great height, the heath is long enough to afford shelter to moorfowl; but that species of game does not abound here. Partridges are very numerous.—Towards the river, the soil is gravel and sand, with a small mixture of earth. Here and there are interjected small fields of a fine black mould, fit for any garden productions, or for any farinaceous grain. Northward, on the higher ground, the soil is a red earth, with a clay bottom. On the lower ground, it is a mixture of black earth or peat-moss. In many places, the surface is covered with rocks and large stones, fit for nothing but building fences; but in the south and west divisions, granite is found. In the latter, there is a quarry of great extent, which has never been opened. It is believed that it would furnish materials for building a very large city, perhaps for building several cities. Here stones 7 or 8 feet long are found on the surface.

The banks of the Dee are noted for salubrity of air. In this parish there is little variation of climate. The houses are generally built on high ground, and in a dry situation; and the people are healthy. I have not, however, heard of any remarkable instance of longevity. Several exceed 80, but few or none arrive at the age of 90 years. Rheumatism prevails among both sexes, especially among the males.



males. The opennels of their houses ; a scanty provision of fuel ; the variableness of the weather, against which they do not sufficiently guard ; and the want of care, after being heated at work,—may be reckoned among the *causes* of this malady. Consumption cuts off many young persons. Five are now afflicted with that disease, and two have died lately. Cancerous disorders are not unfrequent. The wind-colick, and other flatulent complaints, are very common. This may partly proceed from their living so much on vegetables, without being able to procure animal food. Few children escape the small-pox in the natural way, for inoculation is not practised among them. Seldom are either the small-pox or the measles fatal. For accidental hurts, for whatever diseases require chirurgical or medical skill, the parishioners are recommended to the Infirmary of Aberdeen, where great attention is paid to them, and many are benefited by that useful institution. The physicians observe, that scrofulous disorders are more common among the country people than is generally believed.—Although there cannot be great difference of climate in so narrow a compass, yet the snow is often deeper, and the frost is more intense in the interior parts of the parish, than on the river side. Here, a south exposure, and a thin dry soil, give a greater effect to the rays of the sun. These causes contribute to make the crops more early, and likewise more productive.

*Property, Agriculture.*—Almost two-thirds of the parish belonged to the late Mrs Udney Duff, and go now to her successor. About a sixth part, or more, belonged to the late Mr Burnett of Countesswells, who left one son, now a minor, attending school in England. The other sixth part, comprehending the greatest share of the lands of Murtle, belonged to the town of Aberdeen. The town divided their property into four lots. Three lots were



feued, or let in fee; the fourth was let in lease. Mr Watson, Advocate in Aberdeen, feued the lot of Bingle. The lot called Mains of Murtle has passed through various hands, and is now the property of Mr Gordon, merchant in Aberdeen. Both these gentlemen have built neat country seats, at which they occasionally reside. The large and commodious mansions of Culter and Countesswells are at present uninhabited. The lot of Oldfold belongs now to Professor Ogilvy of King's College, who has let the whole of it to one tenant. A small house, the seat of the former proprietor, is quite desolate and ruinous. It is more than half a century since a part of the estate of Drum was annexed to the estate of Culter. In this parish, the barony of Kenarty, or south division, containing 4 or 5 ploughs, and also the west division, belong now to the proprietor of Culter. The 4 lots of Murtle are inclosed and subdivided, partly by hedging, and partly by stone fences. Some of the inclosures have been trenched, cleared of stones, well manured, and brought to a state of improvement far from being despicable. Mr Watson has favoured me with the following detail relative to his lot, which is subjoined in the note below \*. The use of lime, as Mr Watson observes, is

\* My fen is called Bingham, not *Bingle*, in the original writs. It is 28 years since I feued it. In extent it is 170 acres. At that time only 42 of these were arable; the remainder being covered with heath, furze, broom, briars, &c. I planted 60 acres, and trenched and improved the rest at a very considerable expence; so all of it now bears crop but that under wood. I put 7000 plants into every acre; that is, 420,000 plants in all: Of these were firs of all kinds, also oak, elm, ash, planes, &c. besides many fruit-trees in my gardens. They thrive; and many of the firs are already 15 and 20 feet high, and more. In one of the plantations a Druid's temple was discovered, which I inclosed. Near to it there is a large *tumulus*, or cairn, which, it is said, was once the burying place of the ancient family of Drum, my farm having been their family seat some centuries back. That old family were formerly proprietors of it and Murt-hill, or Murtle, and



is common ; but it is used in so small quantities, that no great advantage is in general reaped from it. They must bring all the lime which they use from Aberdeen, for there is no limestone hitherto found in the parish. There may be 3 or 4 farmers here, who annually bring out each between 30 and 40 bolls of unslaked lime, or shell-lime, which is equal to thrice that measure of slaked lime. Few of the rest use above 10 or 12 bolls in a year, and some of them none at all. In the estate of Culter, and the lands in this parish now annexed to it, there are 23 or 24 farmers; and although 3 or 4 farms be sometimes let to one tenant, no farmer pays above L. 40 of rent; some from L. 20 to L. 30; and some from L. 10 to L. 20. These farmers have so many subtenants; but every one of them is restricted to a certain number of fires. The peat-mofs belonging to the estate of Culter is almost exhausted, and the tenants are prohibited from selling any peats. They and the tenants in the barony of Kenarty, may cut fuel in the mofs of Leuchar, which supplies the west division, but is at a great distance, and the road is very bad. In the lands of Countesswells peat-mofs abounds; and therefore, when Mr Burnett purchased that estate, the farms were divided into small possessions,

and of a great tract of country around besides. In digging up the foundation of some old walls, which were said to have been part of the mansion of that family, my workmen found near an handful of silver coin, about the size of sixpences, inscribed *Davidus Rex*. About that time a report was prevalent of a bull's hide, filled with money, being sunk in a bog. In trenching, the labourers went deeper here than any way, in full expectation of discovering the treasure, but were disappointed.—In the plantations there are foxes, hares, and deer, &c. When I began to improve, the use of lime was scarcely known, except at Culter, where foot and lime were both used. Of the latter I drove out many cargoes. The country people then said, *I was not wise enough*; but when they saw the crops it produced, by the different methods of using it, they changed their opinion, and very soon used it themselves, and found the benefit of it. Now it is quite common.



possessions, and let to separate tenants, so that every householder, with a few exceptions, pays to the proprietor. Many of them pay their rent by carrying milk and fuel to Aberdeen; and the improvement of the land is not much minded. If they can lay out a small spot in turnip and grafs for a milk-cow or two, they seek no more. One of the tenants, indeed, has a pretty large farm, well inclosed and subdivided, and raises green crops, &c. and pays, I believe, between L. 70 and L. 80 of rent. He keeps a flock of sheep, consisting of 100 or more, the only sheep on that estate. Formerly there were from 10,000 to 12,000 on it; but the tenants say, that they cannot now keep any, since so much hill has been inclosed and planted. It is to no purpose to expatiate on the advantage of keeping sheep; to recommend to them to employ a herd to tend several small flocks joined in one, and each person to pay according to his number of sheep. They will not alter their plan. Most of the tenants keep the old track, they sow Scots barley and oats alternately; few sow pease. It is common to manure 2 or 3 acres annually, by making a fold, and keeping their cattle inclosed there all summer and harvest, except the time they are on pasture in the morning and afternoon. The common Scotch plough is mostly used, and is sometimes drawn by 10 or 12 small oxen under yoke, sometimes by 4 horses, and sometimes both by oxen and horses 6 or 8 in number; nay, we are still so Gothic in some places, that a horse and an ox are matched together. Some instances could be produced of ploughs, of English construction, drawn by 2 horses, or by 2 large oxen in traces, without a driver. It is to be regretted, that the instances are so few.

Of the estate of Culter, 100 acres are planted with firs and other trees. Of the estate of Countesswells, 140 acres are planted with firs, and 10 acres with trees of various kinds.



kinds. A part of Oldfold and Murtle is likewise planted. In all of them there is game, as in the plantations of Bingle, and various singing birds, the thrush, linnet, goldfinch, &c. In severe winters woodcocks are numerous in the woods of Culter. I have heard a sportsman say, that he has, in one day, killed 7 or 8 of them.—As plantations have increased, sheep have decreased. There were 7 farms in the lands of Culter and Murtle, on each of which there was a flock of sheep, and now a single animal of the kind is not to be seen on any of them.

There are in the parish, of one kind or other, 132 horses, 79 carts, about 1000 black cattle, 49 ploughs, 2380 sheep. All the horses, except about 20, are of a small size; and the black cattle and sheep are generally of a small breed.

The rent of some of Mr Gordon's property is L. 3 an acre, of some L. 1, 10 s. and of some a guinea. Of Mr Watson's property, only a few acres are let to tenants, who pay a guinea *per* acre. In the lands of Countesswells, the rent of an acre of arable land, is, I believe, in general a guinea. Some of the inclosures in grass, being only 3 or 4 miles from Aberdeen, let at more. In the estate of Culter, the rent of an acre of infield \* may be 10 s. 15 s. or 20 s.; that of an acre of outfield, 2 s. 6 d. or 1 s.; one would think some of it dear at 1 s. The crop many times will not compensate the expence, and they own it; but they say, that they till it to renew the grass; poor too is that grass. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2163 : 9 : 8 Scots, or L. 180 : 5 : 9½ Sterling. The real rent is above L. 1200 Sterling; and there are 3 salmon-fishings belonging to the lands of Culter and Kenarty, whose rents amount to L. 50 Sterling, or upwards.

*Church,*

\* The infield bears a small proportion to the outfield, and hill and pasture.



*Church, Manse, Stipend, &c.*—In the year 1779, a small elegant church was built, and completely furnished with new galleries and seats in an uniform manner. Three years prior to this, the manse got a new substantial roof. Then, and in 1779, it received other alterations and repairs, which made it, though it be but small, a comfortable habitation. It is built of stone and clay, and is said to be more than 100 years old; therefore it cannot long remain tight and sound, unless the exterior coat of plaster be kept quite entire, by being frequently renewed; already the rain penetrates the wall in some places when it blows a storm. About 3 years ago, a complete set of new and neat office-houses was finished in a very substantial manner.

The stipend is L. 38 : 5 : 3 Sterling, 39½ bolls of oatmeal, and 8½ bolls of bear. In this statement I include L. 2, 15 s. or thereabout, allowed for communion-elements, and some allowance for grass-money.

The ground destined for messuage, or glebe and manse, &c. is below the legal dimensions. Although preventive methods have been used for some time back, the river Dee and the water of Culter have made, and do annually make encroachments on the ground allotted for grass to the minister's cattle.

The proprietor of Culter is patron; but the right of property is at present disputed.

*School, &c.*—Some years since the schoolmaster's salary was only L. 5 : 11 : 1½; but the minister applied to the heritors and the presbytery, and got it augmented to L. 8, 6 s. 8 d.; he also receives L. 1 : 14 : 2 from a fund left by two of the late proprietors of Culter, Sir Alexander Cumming and Patrick Duff, Esq; for teaching some scholars of a certain description; he likewise gets L. 2 for acting as session-clerk, with some other perquisites, which are but small.



small. By a rule lately established, he ought to receive 1 s. 6 d. for teaching English ; 2 s. *per* quarter when writing or arithmetic is added ; and 2 s. 6 d. each quarter for teaching Latin.

Many in the parish complain, that they are far from school, and that their children are not able to go to it. For some time I cannot say that it was well attended by children near or far off. But we have now got a school-master of approved assiduity and care, and the number of scholars has been doubled. Last summer there were from 40 to 50 at school at the same time. Soon after he took up school in the end of last autumn, above 60 scholars entered.

*Population, &c.*—In 1755, according to Dr Webster, there were 755 souls. At present, there are 220 families in the parish ; 456 males, and 546 females, or 1002 souls.

Their division, according to age, stands thus :

Under 10,	-	212	From 50 to 60,	-	84
From 10 to 20,	-	195	From 60 to 70,	-	86
From 20 to 30,	-	140	From 70 to 80,	-	41
From 30 to 40,	-	121	And above 80,	-	6
From 40 to 50,	-	117			

In the year 1776, and for some time after, the number of inhabitants was above 1040. There was then a numerous family in the mansion-house of Countesswells, and now there is but one servant. In Culter-house there was lately a throng family ; now there are only three servants.

*Of Artificers or Handicraftsmen,*—there are in the parish,

Smiths,	-	-	-	2
Wrights, who perform house carpentry, cart-work, plough-work, &c.	-	-	-	5
Vol. XVI.	3	A		Millers,



Millers, some of whom perform cooper-work, &c.	4
Gardeners,	6
Shoemakers,	4
Weavers,	12
Tailors,	10
And one fuller, who scours and mills cloth, and can practise dying.	

From 1773 to 1783 the average of births is 21; from 1783 to 1793 the average is 16; but the accuracy of the register cannot be much depended on. From the best information, however, it appears, that this parish was more populous 40 or 50 years since than it is now. One reason is, that 3 lots of the lands belonging to the town of Aberdeen were feued, or given in fee, and a fourth lot was let in lease to one tenant; on this lot the number of families is reduced from 14 to 3; from 60 persons to 20. On the lot of Oldfold only one family resides; formerly it was inhabited by 5 or 6 families. On the other two lots, Bingle and Mains of Murtle, the number of persons and families is much the same now that it was forty years ago. On Bingle there will be an increase soon. Another reason to be assigned for the decrease of population is this, many young persons go to manufacturers and tradesmen in Aberdeen and its vicinity; there, so many hands are employed, and so great encouragement is sometimes given, that whole families migrate thither at once. This does now and then happen, when a farmer raises the rent of his crofts, or when any discord arises. Hence it is, that on some farms we find two or three cottages in ruins; and on other farms, some cottages in ruins, and some of those which are standing, uninhabited.

Of burials and marriages no register is kept. The number of marriages is annually about five. The number of the dead brought hither for interment, from Aberdeen and



its neighbourhood, exceeds the number of persons who die within the parish.

*Parochial Funds.*—Our funds for the support of the poor consist of the interest of L. 100, the weekly collections in the church, mortcloth-dues, &c. The church-session have also in their management annuities paid from the estate of Culter, amounting to L. 6, or more, and a legacy of L. 40, the interest of which must be paid to the descendents of one man and his wife, while they claim it. The list of poor contains 30 persons. They all receive some shillings at each of three stated times of the year. They likewise receive occasional supplies, as necessity requires. The annual pension of some does not exceed 12 s.; some get more than L. 1; and a few of them get more than L. 1, 10 s. The distributions, *communibus annis*, exceed L. 30; some years they amount to L. 40, with L. 3 or L. 4 to the infirmary of Aberdeen, over and above. By the frequent use of hearths, the income from mortcloths has greatly decreased. In the year 1782 and 1783 a considerable part of our stock was laid out in the purchase of meal and grain. By a proper distribution of these, by a small share of victual sent by Government, and by donations from Mrs Udny Duff of Culter, and Mrs Irvine of Drum, the poor on the roll were made comfortable, and several persons, who had suffered by deficient crops, received a seasonable aid. Two or three of the poor only go about as mendicants.

Although there be not at present any gentry who attend our church, the collection made on Sabbaths does honour to the charitable spirit of the congregation.

*Alehouses, Morals, &c.*—In this parish there are three houses where ale and spiritous liquors are sold. Forty years back there were four times that number, and inebriation



briation was too prevalent. Then ale and a few drams constituted the treat; now punch is more common. Those three alehouses serve chiefly for the accommodation of travellers, and of persons who meet to transact business. I do not perceive that they are prejudicial to the morals of the parishioners. In this place it is rare to see a person intoxicated with liquor \*.

The

\* I do not mean here to affirm, that we are free from excess of every kind. All classes exceed in the use of tea and tobacco, particularly of the latter, as it is consumed in snuffing, chewing, and smoking. This last species of coarse luxury is too much practised by both sexes. I have known some persons so much enslaved to it, that they carried their tobacco-pipe with them on Sunday, for the purpose of smoking on the way to and from church.

Dr Cullen very properly classes tobacco among *sedatives* or *narcotics*. The smoking of it occasions to beginners fits of sickness, severe, although of short duration, and sometimes proves an emetic. In long practitioners, it produces some degree of torpor and low spirits, or disposes to sleep. In melancholy people, it tends to increase the disease. It also impairs the eye-sight, and some have thought that it is adverse to the genital powers.

It is to be regretted that so large remittances are sent from these kingdoms, to procure a very pernicious article of luxury. When America was a part of the British Empire, this branch of commerce was encouraged as a favour done to our colonies. For their sake, the cultivation of tobacco was prohibited in Britain. One who is but little conversant in politics would think, that this indulgence ought to have terminated with the commencement of the American revolt, or of American independence. But this claims not much attention, if we could be supplied with a better substitute. Such a substitute might, perhaps, be found in camomile flowers. By mixing them with tobacco in smoking, a flavour is produced much more agreeable than that of tobacco alone. I believe that they are applicable to most of the uses to which tobacco may be applied. They are less noxious, and possess more virtues. They are, or they ought to be, an ingredient in the British herb tobacco, and British herb snuff. By chewing a few of them, a slight disorder of the stomach may be removed. In attacks of the wind-colic, many have recourse to tobacco; camomile flowers are preferable; and the chewing of them might be found useful in cases of dyspepsy or atrophy.



The people are, in general, active, sober, and industrious, of a humane and peaceable disposition, decent in their behaviour, and come to church clean and decent in their dress. In some, perhaps, the features of the selfish principle may be too plainly discerned.

I have been nigh 20 years here, and I have not heard of any person, belonging to this place, capitally tried; and only of two or three who have been imprisoned or banished.

All the parishioners are of the Established Church, except a very few who are of the Episcopal Church, and three or four women who attend the Seceders. A few young persons do also resort to some church, or Chapel of Ease at Aberdeen, although it be at a greater distance than their parish church. It is pretended that they go to hear favourite preachers, those eminent for popularity; but I have heard it alleged, that they are drawn thither by motives not purely of a religious nature.

*Manufactures.*—The late Mr Duff of Culter granted a long lease of some acres of ground, close to the public road, and along the burn of Culter, to Mr Bartholomew Smith, an Englishman, for the purpose of erecting a paper-mill. In the year 1750, Mr Smith erected a mill, with proper edifices and machinery; and on 1st January 1751, he commenced the business of paper making. This was the first attempt of the kind in the north, and succeeded. The work is now carried on under the direction of Mr Richard Smith, the lessee's son and successor, who generally employs six men in the different parts of the process. Formerly they manufactured superfine paper, and paper for notes to the Aberdeen bank. I have written on fine post paper which was made at this mill, equal in quality to any that I have ever seen. At present the fabrication is chiefly  
confined



confined to common paper for printing and writing, to pasteboard, cartridge-paper, and all kinds of wrapping-paper, &c. For all these a ready market is found at Aberdeen, where the demand is greater than can be supplied by this and the paper-mill on Don. With the machinery of the paper-mill is connected that of a barley-mill.

I cannot help taking notice of the situation of this mill, which is beautifully romantic, or might be made so. It stands in a bottom containing about 6 acres, almost surrounded by a steep hill, the front of which is seemingly composed of the segments of different circles; the burn of Culter rolling along in a straight line, or parabolic curves. The precipice is highest on the N. the N. W. and the W. thence declivous towards the south, at which, and the south-east point, there is some opening. To the eye, the front of the steep would seem, in some places, to be nearly perpendicular, and the angle of declivity does not exceed  $23^{\circ}$ . The perpendicular height is, in some parts, about 400 feet. A stream of water could be carried over a high part of the precipice, and would form a grand cascade, which, with the planting of the circumjacent slopes, would add much to the beauty of the scene.

About 5 years since, a distillery, consisting of two stills, (each containing 40 gallons), with proper utensils, was erected in the south-east corner of this parish, on the burn of Murtle, nigh to the spot where a barley-mill formerly stood, and not far from the river Dee. When the duty was raised, the business was interrupted for some time; but it is now resumed by a company at Aberdeen, who proceed briskly, and make excellent spirits. Although the distance from Aberdeen be only 5 miles, the spirits distilled here cannot be carried to that market. Small is the quantity which can be vended within the parish, and they must therefore try to find merchants across the coun-



try, until some alteration shall be made in the laws now existing relative to distilleries.

I shall not be thought to digress much from the design of the statistical volumes, when I observe, that above fifty years back, in consequence of an agreement between the late Earl of Fife and the late Mr Duff of Culter, a saw-mill was constructed on the burn of Culter, at its conflux with the river Dee. Fir-trees were brought down the river to it, from the woods of Braemar, and manufactured. But this work has been discontinued these 40 years and more; and people speak feelingly of the want of it, because during the time of its subsistence, the country was well supplied with excellent timber.

Stockings are manufactured here for the hosiery in Aberdeen, as mentioned in the report from Echt.

*Roads and Bridges.*—Here we cannot boast much of the excellence of our roads, although few places afford better materials. Some of the cross roads are impassable to carriages, some of them too bad for foot travellers, and several parts of the public road to Aberdeen stand in great need of repairs. By the exertions of Mrs Udney Duff, during two years before her death, some part of it was made tolerable, and some bad steps were mended. Before her, the late Mr Burnett of Countesswells was zealous in the same cause. Through his own estate he got cross roads made, which are now very serviceable. As he was a gentleman of a benevolent and public spirit, and was called away in the vigour of life, his death might have been considered as a public loss.

The Aberdeen road had at first been ill projected. To travellers it presents an emblem of the elevations and depressions which frequently occur in the journey of life. So  
much



much ascent and descent, in so quick succession, and in a space of so few miles, can scarce be met with in any other road. Some gentlemen in the neighbourhood, sensible of this inconvenience, have thought of planning out another road, in a shorter line and a more level tract. But the execution will be laborious and expensive, and to raise a sufficient fund would be somewhat difficult. The most eligible resource, perhaps, would be, to obtain an act for establishing turnpikes.

I cannot finish this article without mentioning, that few persons perform the statute-work on the roads, and some are so unwilling to pay the commutation-money, which is low, that recourse must sometimes be had to the taking of pledges. Yet the generality clamour more than enough about the badness of the roads, particularly of the roads which lead to church. There may indeed be some cause of complaint, if what I have heard be true, that some years the commutation-money has been collected through whole districts, and none of it applied to the making or repairing of roads.

As one travels along, he cannot help being offended at seeing several cart-loads of small stones, which had been gathered off the fields, thrown into a pit or ditch at the road-side, when they might have been better disposed of to fill up pits and ruts, and broken places in the middle of the road. I am of opinion, that the farmers would readily apply their gleanings in that manner, if any gentleman, who takes a concern in the public roads, would express a wish for its being done.

There are two arched stone-bridges in this parish. One of them is over Leuchar-burn, near its junction with Gormack-burn, on the road leading from Aberdeen to part of Cromar, &c. It is in bad repair. A part of the battlements or parapet is fallen down; so that a beast and cart fell



fell over it, more than 15 years ago, and both were destroyed. It was built in 1608, and repaired in 1710. It has both these dates. Near to this bridge are the remains of a rampart called the guard-dike. Tradition informs, that a strong guard of armed men was stationed here, to prevent all communication between the sound and the infected, while the plague raged in Aberdeen and its environs, about 130 years ago.

The other bridge is over the burn of Culter, on the Dee-side road, a little below the paper-mill. This is a good sufficient bridge, and in good repair. It does not bear any date, but it had been widened above 40 years since. Formerly it did not easily admit carriages, for it had been built before they were much used in this country.

Close to the lower side of this bridge, there is a rock on each side of the burn, projecting a little, and inviting, one would think, to throw an arch over there. The summit of the rock is more than 30 feet above the bed of the river. If a bridge had been constructed on that foundation, it would have added some grandeur to the aspect of the place; the public road might have been shortened; and a steep ascent might have been avoided. That ascent is, by much labour, now made easier.

There are other two arched \* stone bridges; each of which has the site of one pillar in this parish, and of the other in the parish of Dalmaik. One of them is over Garvock-burn, on the road leading to the house of Drum; the other, which is a very small one, is over a rivulet, on the road leading to the manse and church of Dalmaik, two or three paces from the minister's garden.

\* There are several bridges in this parish composed of long stones laid horizontally, and supported at each end by a stone wall.



*Thunder and Lightning.* — On Saturday, 10th July\* 1779, we were visited here by a fatal thunder-storm. The morning of that day was bright and hot. At noon the hemisphere was overcast. A storm gathered in the north, and made its progress southward over this place. About 3 o'clock the explosion of the thunder-cloud, then vertical to us, was tremendous indeed. At that instant, a farmer's son with two servants were loading their carts, on a heath about a mile south, with stones for building the church. The two servants, and two of the horses were killed. The farmer's son was struck to the ground, and remained some time in a state of insensibility. Next evening the two servants were buried here in one grave. A stone was set up at the fatal spot, with the initials of their names.

The ancient poet's verses may be philosophic, but are not sufficiently descriptive of the thunder-storm which I have mentioned :

- " Fulgit item, nubes ignis cum semina multa
- " Excussere suo concursu, creu lapidem si
- " Percutiat lapis, aut ferrum ; nam tum quoque lumen
- " Exsilit, et claras scintillas dissipat ignis,
- " Sed tonitru sit, uti post auribus accipiamus,
- " Fulgere quam cernant oculi, quia semper ad aures
- " Tardius adveniunt, quam visum quæ moveant res."

Lucret. lib. 6.

- " Quick lightning flies, when heavy clouds rush on,
- " And strike, as steel and flint, or stone and stone ;
- " For then small sparks appear, and scatter'd light
- " Breaks swiftly forth, and wakes the sleepy night.

" The

- \* Hic iterum situs est Cancræ, cum sidere Phœbus
- Solstitium facit, et summo versatur Olympo.

Past summer solstice, Phœbus had borne the day  
Through Cancer's sign, and driven the highest way,



- " The flash first strikes the eye, and then we hear
- " The clap, which does more slowly reach the ear ;
- " For light, and images of things, still fly
- " More swift than sound, and quicker strike the eye."

The clap of thunder I have mentioned was awfully loud, and was preceded by a vivid stream of fire ; both together impressive of that solemn period, when *the seven thunders shall utter their voices*. But lest I should offend any, in this age of new philosophy, by a quotation from the sacred page, I beg leave to present to their view, a few lines from the fore-cited author :

- " Cui non animus formidine divum
- " Contrahitur ? Cui non torrepunt membra pavore,
- " Fulminis horribili cum plaga torrida tellus
- " Contremittit, et magnum percurrunt murmura cœlum ?
- " Non populi, gentesque tremunt ? regesque superbi
- " Corripiunt divum perculsi membra timore,
- " Ne quod ob admissum fœdâ, dictumve superbe,
- " Pœnarum grave sit solvendi tempus adauctum ?

Lucret. lib. 5.

- " What mind's not shaken ? and what soul not aw'd ?
- " And who but thinks the angry gods abroad ?
- " Whose limbs don't shrink, when dreadful thunder hurl'd,
- " Roars in the clouds, and shakes the frightened world ?
- " What do not cities, do not nations fear,
- " When dismal desolation seems so near ?
- " Then do not tyrant kings and haughty lords,
- " Repent their wicked deeds and boastful words ?
- " Do they not tremble at approaching doom,
- " And fear their dreaded punishment is come."

Crœsch altered.

*Antiquities.*



*Antiquities.*—The hill where the two men were killed by lightning, is commonly called the Hill of the Old-town. It does not rise to a great height, and has a pretty extensive plain on the top, partly cultivated. On the N. E. end is the farm of Oldtown, and the farm of Hilltown on the S. W. end. Betwixt them lies a heath. On the N. W. side of it, a wall and ditch run from N. E. to S. W. about 3 quarters of a mile, along the slope of the hill, which is there separated from the public road by a small valley. From each end of this wall, and almost at right angles to it, ramparts had been carried S. E. towards the river Dee, which is about a mile distant from the angular points. Farm-houses, huts, folds, and tillage, render these ramparts indistinct; but it is manifest that they had not been carried all the way to the river. The inequality and rocky nature of the ground would have rendered that a difficult work. It is probable that there were then thickets and places of bosage on the river side, and they might have cut down trees to complete the barricade in these parts. At the N. E. and S. W. angles, there had been half-moon work constructed. The top of the bank is, in some places, 8 or 9 feet above the bottom of the ditch. In most places the height is about 6 feet. But in the course of centuries, much of the wall must have tumbled down, and much of the ditch must have been filled up.

No history, to which I have access, makes mention of this military work. Tradition has done no more than transmitted some names. The rampart is called "Norman's dike;" half cultivated lands adjacent to it, are called "The Norman faughs." A large fountain, close to the eastern rampart, bears the name of "Norman's well." These names, together with the form and situation of the work, serve to shew that it has been a Danish encampment. For we know that the Danes and Norwegians invaded

France



France in the 8th century. They entered the Seine and the Loire in their boats, and plundered the country to the gates of Paris. At length the French were forced to resign Normandy and Britany to Rollo, their general, *anno* 876. After that, they were frequently called Normans. *Norman*, too, was sometimes the name of their generals or chiefs. About the same time, they harassed the coasts of Britain, and continued their invasions to the 11th century. In some of their latest descents, it is likely that they had penetrated into this country, and formed the encampment which I have mentioned. Considering the nature of the country, the position was well chosen. Few places, so near the public road, and of so great extent, could be so easily fortified, or take in so distinct and so wide a prospect.

Some think that it might have been an encampment of William the Conqueror. He was, indeed, at war with Scotland, for some time preceding the peace concluded in 1072; but historians say, that his armies never came farther into the north than the town of Perth.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—Farmers and crofters, and cottagers, are near to a good market, for what they have to sell; but persons who need to buy, pay as high a price for poultry, eggs, milk, &c. as is paid at the market-cross of Aberdeen. The price of labour is generally the same here and in town. It is an advantage to be near to a good sea-port, especially to those who carry lime to their farms. It may soon be found an advantage to all classes, if coals shall become their general firing; and that period does not seem to be very distant. If people could be reconciled to the use of coals, and were accustomed to the proper management of them, they would find them cheaper firing now than peat and turf; and although plantations become



become frequent, it has not yet been found that wood is very cheap firing.

A disadvantage arises to our farmers from the nature of the soil. Thin and steril, it is soon over-run with heath, whins, or broom, when it is left ley; I say, when it is unploughed and unsowed. The use of lime does not afford a remedy; and marl, as far as I know, has not been discovered in any part of this country. To this noxious tendency of the soil, it will hardly be thought a sufficient counterbalance, that young broom is used for thatching houses instead of straw; that old broom and old whins serve for fuel; and young whins, properly prepared, make excellent food for cattle, particularly for horses; sheep are very fond of them. One would think that their wool might be improved by such aliment. All vegetables contain a salt and an oil, some more, some less; whins seem to contain a good deal of both. Certain it is, that when horses are fed with bruised whins, they get a sleek glittering pile, and grow plump and agile. The same effect is produced by giving them feeds of boiled corn, mixed with salt. On this principle it is, that some farmers, when they stack their hay, strew salt on the different strata. The superior fineness of Spanish wool is generally acknowledged. It is well known that the shepherds of that country lay slates with salt on them over the pasture-ground, and the sheep, as they go along, lick up the salt. I have been informed, that in some places, barren spots, after being pretty well cleared of stones, are sowed with whins, which are mowed down with a scythe, at a proper age, and braised for food to cattle. In the year 1775, the crop on Dee side, after a dry spring and summer, was far from being luxuriant; it is yet distinguished as the year of the short crop; in the succeeding winter and spring, almost every body had recourse to whins for provender to their cattle. Some



prepared them by threshing them with flails, others by beating them with mallets in a stone trough. This is preferable to threshing, especially if the mallets be hooped or capped with iron. But these methods are tedious and toilsome, and many might have a machine moved by water for executing this work. Here a question occurs, *viz.* What kind of a machine would be fittest for the purpose? The only one hitherto tried, is constructed on the model of a waulkmill or fullingmill. With some alterations and improvements it might answer the end; but I am of opinion, that two thick weighty mill-stones, to go upon their edge, like to those used in oil-mills for bruising linseed, would answer better.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—It is thought impolitic to allow corporations and societies to purchase much land, and there seems to be a general prejudice against it; because, when they get possession of any heritage, they retain it. This is considered as a bar to that rotation of property so beneficial to society, and so favourable to the spirit of enterprize. If this prejudice cannot be removed, it may be diminished, by considering, that although corporations seldom make an entire and unreserved sale of their property, they frequently make a partial disposal of their right, when they feu, or let their lands in fee; for this gives a perpetual right to the feuer, or holder, and his heirs, on paying a certain yearly rent. But it is generally required, that he sink a particular sum, or pay down some hundreds of pounds as a gratuity, at the conclusion of the bargain, more or less, according to the value and extent of the land. Thus there arises a twofold property: A fixed annual sum is paid to the corporation, as original proprietor or superior; but they have no concern with the land nor the tenants.

The



The holder has as full and indisputable a right to these as in cases of fee-simple.

This kind of conveyance is attended with several advantages. The gentlemen who take the lands in fee do, for the most part, lay out money largely and judiciously, in trenching, draining, fencing, planting, manuring, &c. Large tracts, formerly useless and rugged, are soon converted into fruitful and pleasant fields. Labourers find healthful employment. Tenants are furnished with crofts, or small farms, in a more improved state than those around them; and although the rent of an acre be three or four times as much as the rent of an acre in the common state of cultivation, they have a better bargain. Much has been done by gentlemen feuers in this parish, as has been already mentioned; and in the neighbouring parish of Skene, a considerable extent of land having been lately let in fee by societies in Aberdeen, the face of a rough bleak country is in several places much altered to the better.

On property of the same kind around Aberdeen, we, year after year, behold villas rising, and various improvements going forward. About 40 years back, the vicinity of that town exhibited a prospect as wild and barren as can be well imagined, consisting of rocks, marshes, stony heaths, and spots over-run with broom, briars, thorns, and whins. Now it presents us with a beautiful landscape, of small neat houses, gardens, nurseries, plantations, bleachfields, fine corn-fields, &c. It is to be presumed, that such beneficial alterations had not taken place, if the ground had belonged to private proprietors, because they seldom or never let any part of their lands in fee; a method of transferring property, which well suits gentlemen who like rural amusements, but do not chuse to lay out much money on land. This country is often infested with vagrants of various descriptions, who, by threats or otherwise, compel people to give them



them money, and the best *vivres* their houses afford. They likewise pick up poultry, apparel, and what they can lay hold of. Their exactions are oppressive, their numbers often formidable, and it hurts the feelings of the humane to see so many young persons trained up to the same pernicious courses. It has been proposed to build a correction and work-house for this shire, and the shire of Banff. The gentlemen of both counties have taken some steps to forward this laudable measure, and all the families in the country have reason to wish them success. It is to be hoped, that the more public concerns of the nation will soon permit them to pay more attention to matters of internal police.

*Language.*—The pronunciation used by some old persons here is very broad. *Second* they pronounce *shocond*; *cough*, *lewagh*, &c. gh and ch are sounded gutturally.

I think that language and pronunciation improve, but there are peculiarities observable on the banks of Dee and Don, and the interjacent district. In words ending in *and*, the *d* gets the faint sound of *th*, *a* that of the diphthong *au*, and the whole is nasal; thus, *land*, *launth*; *sand*, *saunth*, &c. *Ale* is pronounced *ail*; *sals*, *sail*; and so of similar words.

Wheelbarrow, pronounced Wheeborrow.

Board, ————— Beerd.

Pease, ————— Pizz.

Hid, ————— Hudd.

They have also peculiar contractions, *vis.* *cartful*, *cartill*; *potful*, *pottle*; &c.

They use the word *frugal* in the sense generally applied to the word *liberal*.

A *nuce*, or *nefs* family, means a destitute family.



I have heard it sometimes asserted, and never denied, that the river Dee appears as large, and contains as much water at Kincardine, as here, or at the bridge of Dee, a course of 24 miles, in which it receives considerable additions. This observation must suppose, that the river is as rapid at Kincardine as it is here, or at the bridge of Dee; and then it remains to be considered, on what principle the fact is to be explained. Say some, on the principle of evaporation. But it is well known, that in the same climate, the quantity of water evaporated in the same time, is in proportion to the surface exposed; and therefore the same cause would produce the same effect in other rivers. As the Dee runs upon a gravelly and sandy bottom, it is probable that some of the water sinks, and finds a subterraneous passage.

At certain seasons, when the river is in a proper state, several rafts are floated down. The rafts are formed about 7 or 8 miles above this. Farther up, single trees only can be floated down the river, because of the rocks, shallows, cataracts, &c. which occur.

It has been observed by others, that the river Dee frequently overflows the contiguous flats. In autumn 1789, the Haugh of Murtle, measuring 26 Scots acres, was covered with a deep current, and the whole crop, computed at more than 250 bolls of oats, was carried away by the river, the first night after it was out down. The crop of this Haugh is often exposed to a similar fate. Some years ago, the late Mr Burnett of Countesswells, and Captain Henderson of Newton raised an embankment, at their joint expence, across the head of a Haugh, with a view to secure their flats below. This work has been useful, but has not prevented the ravages of an high inundation. In the year, 1790, not only a part of the crop of the Haugh of Murtle was carried down, but also the crop of the Haugh of Cults, which



which is below the embankment. About two miles below this Haugh, a good deal of corn was taken out of the river, cared for, and stacked; it was claimed by the tenant, who possessed a part of the Haugh of Cults, and whose crop was then carried away; but the man who saved the corn would not give it up. This was a subject of litigation before the Sheriff, until the litigants found it expedient to terminate the dispute over a glass. The latter part of the narrative may, perhaps, need an apology, because it relates to another parish.

A long time since, the river Dee had, for the space of a quarter of a mile, entirely shifted its channel, a little below this church, and cut through a part of the estate of Culter. Formerly, the whole of that estate, and of this parish, was situated north of the river, which was the boundary. Now, a small farm, belonging to the estate of Culter, is south of the river. This farm is called the Insch, and had long been an island. Here is a salmon-fishing, which yields about L. 40 Sterling of yearly rent. The old channel was lately very distinct, but is now divided betwixt the two neighbouring proprietors, and put into a state of cultivation. I cannot learn from record or tradition the exact time when the course of the river was altered; but, according to the best information which I have got, it cannot be less than two centuries back. This had probably happened when a gentle thaw succeeded a long and intense frost, when there was water enough to break and float the ice, but not enough to carry it over the shallows; at these it sticks and stops the current, which recoils, and carries back the ice with amazing force and velocity; the channel is crammed with sheets of ice; many are thrown at some distance, and the water shifts its course. About 12 years since, the ice was repelled in this manner up the river Dee, and from it, up the burn of Culter, so that it was thrown  
over



over my garden wall, 8 feet high, and 300 paces from the river. A thriving hedge, and some thriving young trees, were crushed to the ground.

*Eels.*—A great number of young eels, of the common species, make an annual procession up this river, which may be classed among those wonders with which nature abounds. Impressed with the ideas which this phenomenon at first excited, I beg leave to give a short account of it. The time of their appearing varies according to the nature of the season, and the state of the river. It is seldom earlier than the middle of May, nor later than the middle of June. About 15 years ago, when I first observed them, they came in the first week of June; there was then some flood in the river, and the eels kept near to the bank, and near the surface of the water. They proceeded in regular rows, close to each other, and 7 eels in a row. The arrangement and movement of the whole seemed to resemble that order which is the effect of discipline. They continued running three days. They were most numerous the first day; fewer, almost by one half, the second; and on the third day, they came up only in a straggling manner. They were 9 inches long, and  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an inch round.

This year, (1794), the season being mild, and the river low, the eels made their appearance 15th May; but they were not above half the size of the former, and less regular in their ranking and moving. They continued to run four days, with some intermission on the 16th and 17th, but very numerous towards the evening of the 18th May. Many of them kept near to the edge of the river, especially where there is a rapid current; but several seemed to be scattered all over the breadth of the river: For this year I observed more go up the burn of Culter than I could discern,



eels in the river, the burn being always rapid, all of them must keep close to the edge. Here it is necessary to remark, that when they come to the mouth of a burn or rivulet, so many swim up these streams, and the rest proceed in their course up the river. I am informed, that they can by instinct distinguish those burns and rivulets which have their source in lakes, morasses, or peat-mosses, from those streams which derive their chief supply from fountains; and that the latter are little frequented by them. They go up Culter burn in great numbers, and proceed up Leuchar burn, a branch of it, to the loch of Skene. They return in harvest; and the particular time of their regress varies likewise, according to the nature of the season. In different years it may be variously reckoned from the last week of August to the end of October; some of them are at this time an ell in length. These have probably continued in the loch or burn more than one season, for their length in general does not exceed two feet. Tenants who live on the banks of a burn sometimes build a fish-garth, or dam, with an opening to receive a kind of osier basket, or what they call an hose-net for catching fish. They catch some trout and some pike, but eels in great abundance, at the season of their returning to the sea, and sometimes cure them in large earthen jars, or in small casks for winter provision. I have been told that, in the beginning of summer, the young eels are to be seen in the river in shoals, filling the water, like the herring, from top to bottom; this I have never observed. But when a strong flood and contrary wind retard their progress, many of them go up small rivulets, and more of them than would fill a bushel or two are sometimes collected at the foot of a bank or precipice; many of these cannot return to the river, and serve for food to ducks and other aquatics, or any piscivorous animals. For like causes, the eels may be collected



lected in this manner, in dead water at the edge of the river, which probably gave rise to the opinion of their proceeding in shoals.

Struck with the appearance of the eels when I first observed them, I made an attempt to calculate what number might pass in a day, or in a season, and found it to be less than I at first imagined. Having only made an observation or two, I am not supplied with sufficient data for accuracy; but I shall compute by my first observation. Some assert that 2 eels, at least, pass in one second: Say 3 in 2 seconds, or 90 in a minute; and there being 7 in a row, the number is 630 in a minute, or 37,800 in an hour; which, being doubled for both sides of the river, makes 75,600 in an hour, or 1,814,400 in a natural day; the half of which might be added for the second day, and an eight part more for the third day. Another conceit occupied my mind, and that was, what number there might be at once betwixt this and the mouth of the river, a space of 10 miles, supposing both sides of the river covered as per observation first, the ranks close, 7 in each rank, and each of them 9 inches long? But I shall not transgress farther on the reader's patience with this theory or calculation. I shall only remark, that the number which appears here must be less than at some distance below this, because so many of them make their way up every rill and burn which runs into the river.

It is scarce necessary to mention, that eels make a like annual procession up every river, water, and rivulet, which disembogues into the sea.

*Whimsical Division of Parishes.*—Sometimes a part of a parish lies on each side of the river, although there be no bridge, and the communication by boat be frequently impracticable. Generally the parish-churches stand on the banks



banks of the river, when it is the boundary, and little attention has been paid to the convenience of the parishioners. They had been built when Popery was the established religion, and care was taken that the clergy should not want fish in time of Lent.

Sometimes the church stands in one of the remotest corners of the parish. Mary Culter was lately an instance of this, and the church was hard by the seat of the principal heritor. Dalmaik is another instance; but the church is at a considerable distance from the seat of the principal and only residing heritor. The situation of that church is peculiarly singular. A narrow strip of the parish runs down about a quarter of a mile to the N. E. betwixt the river and a wing of this parish; on the N. E. point of this strip the church and manse are built. The minister's peat-stack, some of his office-houses, and the half of the glebe, are in this parish; the other half of the minister's glebe is in his own parish, and, as far as it extends to the westward, takes in the whole breadth of that part of the parish. Several of the parishioners, in travelling the direct road to their own church, pass through a part of this parish. Some farms in Dalmaik and in Durris pay stipend to the minister of Banchory Ternan, and these farms are called *Half Parish*. It would seem that the time was, when the parson of Banchory possessed superior influence, and got a slice off the living of his two neighbours. Some farms on the boundary of this parish and Banchory Davinick pay stipend to both ministers, and they too are called half-parish. But there is a farm in this parish, of an internal situation, which pays stipend to the minister of Banchory Davinick. It is in the estate, and near to the mansion-house of Culter, not above a mile and a quarter from our church, but nigh to four miles from the church of Banchory, and on a different side of the river. We have not records old enough to il-

lustrate



illustrate the cause of this annexation ; but I beg leave to offer a conjecture. It had probably taken place during the establishment of Popery, and the farm of Glaisterberry had then been in the possession of a feudal baron, who, being accustomed to command in the field, could not brook the control of a rigid ecclesiastic. The clergyman of the parish had probably summoned him to satisfy for some offence ; but the baron not deigning to submit to the strictness of his discipline, found means to get himself and his dependents put under the care of the neighbouring priest. Hence, the stipend received by the minister of Banchory from the farm of Glaisterberry, is said to be paid *pro cura animarum*. A change of jurisdiction, similar to this, has been sometimes effected in matters civil as well as ecclesiastical. It is well known, that when the family of Cromarty set up a rivalry to the family of Seaforth, they had influence enough with the Scotch Parliament to get a part of the shire of Ross detached, and formed into a new county, now called the shire of Cromarty. To causes of a like nature it is, perhaps, owing, that the natural boundary of shires, commissariots, &c. has been altered, and that some estates, lying on the north side of the river Dee, are now in the shire of Mearns.

The same spirit which I suppose to have actuated the baron of Glaisterberry, is still predominant in many. Several years ago, a clergyman here gave a very general and gentle rebuke to a company, who came into church about the middle of the sermon. One of them was so much affronted, that he never returned to his parish-church, and has put himself under the care of another pastor. If he possessed influence, he would, no doubt, carry some of the stipend away with him too, and get his secession justified by sanction.

I fear, that a democratical and levelling spirit lurks in the breast of too many. Of those who have any religion,  
each



each family, or small number of families, if they could afford it, would have their own teachers; and many of those who have little or no religion, would readily assent to the abolition of the clerical order, if they could, like the French Convention, withdraw stipend and payment for all forms of worship whatsoever. They would abolish the common week, and substitute the conventional decade; a plan of profit and of loss, by which masters do every year gain the labour of sixteen days, and servants are deprived of as many days of rest. The next step may be, to take away days of rest altogether. By a dash of conventional authority, they have subverted the law of order and subordination, which is the law of heaven: They have annihilated the mutual obligations of master and servant, parent and child, sovereign and subject; and thus they have opposed the appointment of God. For, although it be common with many in great towns, to laugh at the laws of their country, and the religion of their Maker, yet most of us acknowledge the authority of the sacred oracles, and we learn from them, that the "powers which be are appointed by God;" and we infer, that they are appointed for wise reasons; Among other reasons, for the following; that the respect and obedience due to earthly masters may be improved into reverence and resignation towards our Master in Heaven; that the filial affections may rise into the warmest gratitude, the most entire confidence, and supreme love towards the invisible, the universal, and most beneficent Parent; and that the loyalty and allegiance due to the lawful sovereigns of this world, may be advanced into unshaken fidelity and entire submission to the Almighty Sovereign of all worlds, who will bring *the sovereignty of the people*, as well as thrones and dominions, into subjection under Him.

One class of duties is subservient to another; and the same oracles of unerring wisdom put the question, "he



"that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen; how can he love God, whom he hath not seen;" *his brother*, who is daily presented to his senses, to raise his esteem, and move his kindness or compassion towards him. I leave it to the reader to apply the sentiment to the different relations of life. Our religion is adapted to our frame. In its ordinances and precepts, we are considered as creatures who are influenced by external impressions, and by objects which are visible, we are led to those which are invisible. Whatever excellence or amiable quality we perceive in ruler, friend, or parent, we are sure that the great Supreme is possessed of these, and of every perfection in an infinite degree. Whatever weakness or depravity we discern in ourselves or others, we know that from these, and from every kind of imperfection, He is infinitely removed. Him we consider as the Giver of every noble and useful talent, as the Inspirer of every virtue. Thus we are led to pay to Him the tribute of gratitude, adoration, and obedience, and to commit ourselves, with unreserved confidence to his protection and care. From his goodness and mercy we derive consolation and joy in the time of adversity, and pass through the changes of life unappalled by danger, unsubdued by distress.

We frequently hear of the tyranny and extravagance of aristocrates, and are told, that "some people are all quality, made up of nothing but title and genealogy; that the view of their ideal dignity defaces in them the very character of humanity, and makes them insolent and oppressive." Amongst such declaimers, however, we shall find haughtiness and insolence enough, and such a degree of an obstinate, self-sufficient spirit, that they reckon it below them to exercise either good nature or good manners; and were they possessed of power, little humanity could be expected



jected from them. They would be well pleased to see aristocrates reduced to *their* level, but could not bear to think of inferiors rising and ranking with themselves. Of this class there are some who rail against the arbitrary measures of Government, and are, at the same time, as absolute in the exercise of the little power they have, as any potentate in Europe; and we may yet wonder with the ancient Dramatist;

——— *Dii vestram fidem ?*

*Itan' comparatam esse hominum naturam omnium,*

*Aliena ut melius videant, et dijudicent*

*Quam sua ?*

*Terent. Heaut.*

Bless me ! What an odd composition men are of ! that they should see farther, and judge better of other peoples matters and manners than their own !

Sometimes the cry is, " We have an expensive government, a corrupt administration, and a degenerating constitution." With several persons, these may be only words of course. They hear other men inveigh against government, and they believe that any one may do the same. But such language must, on some occasions, be considered as a symptom of political disease, and an indication of revolutionary principles. It is justly deemed base, and highly criminal to traduce a private person; and I cannot well comprehend how it has been thought so innocent to malign those who bear offices of public trust, dignity and importance. In the fair way of estimating crimes, this ought to be branded as complicated guilt. Amongst other heinous transgressors, *who are reserved to the day of judgment to be punished*, the Apostle Peter mentions them who *despise government*; who despise the authority of their governors; *presumptuous, or daring, and self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities*; to rail at persons in authority.



authority. The guilt is greatly aggravated by the tendency of such language, and the effect which it produces; such as prejudices and unfavourable impressions, a spirit of disloyalty and discontent, which lead to faction and conspiracy. All this the railers against government have generally in view. Such persons may assume the name of *patriots* and *friends* of the people; but they must furnish us with a new glossary before we can understand them. To the word *patriot*, we must not affix the antiquated idea of one, who is a lover, a disinterested benefactor of his country; but we must understand by it, one who studies to embarrass public measures, to oppose or elude the laws, and sometimes to embroil the state. If we take our definition of patriots from that class of men on the continent, we must add, they are those men who trample on the laws of equity, alienate property from its rightful owners, seize on public funds, transfer as much of them as they can to their own use, and apply the rest to the purposes of murder, bribery, and luxury; or, in other words, men who attempt to mislead the people by sophisms and pompous sounds, cajole them with vain hopes, and persuade them to sacrifice their safety and peace, and to engage in ravage and massacre; men who would hurry multitudes of people out of the world, or make them miserable while they are in it, and all this to promote the interested views of a junto; views of ambition and aggrandisement, perhaps of malice and resentment.

They who complain so much of the insolence of aristocrats, and the despotism of rulers, should consider what kind of rulers they are like to have, if the revolution, so much desired, took place. In fermentations and ebullitions the scum rises to the top; and in every revolution, which, like that of France, is the work of democracy, the vilest and the worst thrust themselves into places of power. Without remorse they contrive, and without restraint they pursue



pursue such rapacious, oppressive, and bloody measures, as must shock any feeling heart.

Amongst our self-conceited politicians, another topic of declamation is, "the folly of involving us in a war so expensive and unnecessary, and sending troops to assist the Dutch, when they did not want our assistance." That there are Jacobins and malecontents in Holland, as well as in Britain, needs not to be doubted; one would even be led to think, that there were a correspondence betwixt them, else how could the sentiments of the Dutch have been known so well and so early amongst us? These gentlemen will not pretend, however, to have been admitted into the secret counsels of the two cabinets; nor can they affirm, that the *Dutch government* did not want our assistance. By their sending an army into the field, to co-operate with us and the other allies, they gave an irrefragable proof of the contrary. It has been shown by writers on the subject, that we were bound by treaty to defend them. We were called to do it by a principle of common honesty. Besides, to defend the Dutch was, in effect, to defend ourselves, according to that well known maxim of antiquity,

Nam tua res agitur, paries cum proximus ardet:  
Et neglecta sulent incendia sumere vires.

When your next neighbour's house is all a flame,  
If you neglect it, yours will be the same.  
Fires neglected increasing strength acquire;  
Cities they sack, and level the lofty spire.

When a neighbour's house or his field is on fire, one ought to do all he can to extinguish it, for the safety of his own. If the next house is in *danger* of fire, he ought to do all in his power to prevent it. This is suggested to us by the general principle of self-preservation. It is the dictate of common policy and of common sense. The Dutch  
navy,



navy, and naval stores, would be a great acquisition to the French; the Dutch sailors would be a much greater; and Britain ought to make every exertion in order to prevent their getting such an accession to their marine.

Those persons who exclaim so vehemently against the present war, do justly expose themselves to the suspicion of being republicans and jacobins. They seem to be out of temper that their views have been so long disappointed: If we had not gone to war with France; if the alien bill had not passed; if our fleets and forces had not been vigilant, Britain had, before now, swarmed with French jacobins. Before this time we had beheld, many of us had experienced, the like tragical events, the like instances of rapine and barbarity, of confusion and carnage, which have been exhibited on the continent. Writers on the subject are clearly of this persuasion. But the declaimers themselves need no proof; they have the most satisfactory information, they have entire conviction in their own breasts. Here, it is not to be forgotten, that after the French had proceeded so far in the reform of their government; after assassinations and massacres were committed, and commotions prevailed throughout the kingdom, one of our Senators, one of these called Men of the People, said in the House of Commons, that "our ministry ought to take advantage of the distracted state of France;" a speech which plainly insinuated our going to war. The speeches of the same gentleman now abound with bitter invective against the present war, which was not commenced on our part, until our allies were attacked, and we ourselves daringly threatened; was not commenced until war became unavoidable, unless we were tamely to give up every thing valuable to us as Britons, and dear to us as men and Christians.



It is cause of regret, that the war has proved so disastrous, and that many of our disasters are to be ascribed to the baseness of traitors among ourselves, who give to the enemy all the intelligence and aid in their power. We may be persuaded, that several of our ships, in the list of captures, have been freighted with warlike stores and provisions for the enemy's use, and have purposely thrown themselves in the way of French cruisers. It is hard to say what success they may have in alluring our sailors into their service; but we know, that by want, bad bread, and bad treatment, they have brought many of them to their grave. It is treason to take part with the enemies of the King and the nation, or to aid them in the manner now mentioned. To pray for success to them, or to pray against the success of our own troops, if it be not a degree of treason, does certainly come very near to it. It shews that there is abundance of treason in the heart, and in the intention. People do hereby show the strongest inclination to side with the enemy, and that nothing but want of power and opportunity prevents them from doing it. One is surprised to find an orator pleading publicly before a most venerable Court, in behalf of such petitioners; and glossing their prayers as mere wishes that a junto would not prevail against France. Of that junto Britain is a part. In the last session of Parliament some speakers represented it as the principal. It is now like to stand single in the contest; and therefore to pray for success to the French, or to pray that Britons may not prevail, is nothing less than praying, that the British throne be pulled down, and the British constitution levelled in the dust; that Britain may become a section of the French republic, *one and undivided*, and thus be enslaved to the most arbitrary and execrable tyranny that ever existed.

Loud



Loud also are the complaints against *manifest and enormous taxes*, which are said to be *highly oppressive*.

These complainers should consider, that unless mankind were to roam like the beasts of the desert, there must be government, and government must have a decent support. Thus is the necessity of taxes fixed. As a nation improves in arts and manufactures; as it extends its commerce and empire, in that proportion the expence of government increases, and taxes must be multiplied; but the nation having become richer, is abler to pay them. When the rulers and the public servants of a great nation can appear with suitable dignity at home and abroad, that nation becomes respectable in the eyes of foreign powers; respect and safety are secured even to its subjects.

Amidst the extravagant murmurs which have been heard against taxes, what is become of boasted patriotism? By true patriotism we are taught to make great sacrifices to the public good;—to sacrifice ease, power, pleasure, and wealth, in order to maintain the rights, to promote and defend the honour and happiness of our country. Therefore, grumbling must, in this case, betray a selfish and sordid spirit,—a spirit too much enslaved to mammon.—Even when taxes have risen to exorbitance, and may be considered as a grievance, we are directed to submit: “Ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but for conscience sake,”—not only for fear of punishment from man, but out of obedience to God. “For this cause, ye pay tribute also,” &c. Rom. xiii. 5, 6. “Indeed,” says the same Apostle, “there is altogether a fault among you, that ye have contests with each other: Why do ye not rather suffer wrong?” He condemns their having quarrels with each other at all, whether they went to law or not. Much more would he condemn insurrection, violence and depredation. He upbraids them that they did not rather



ther suffer wrong. "All men," says a writer on this passage, "cannot receive this saying, or will not receive it. Many aim only at the observance of this rule, *I will neither do wrong, nor suffer wrong*. These may be honest heathens, but no Christians." It were well, however, if people would abstain from doing wrong: They would be less exposed to the suffering of wrong. Our religion does herein give us an essential lesson of prudence. For it is certainly much better to pay a few shillings more yearly, than to sacrifice peace, public and private,—than to hazard the life, property and happiness, of many thousands. Persons who pretend to be Christians, should know something of the value of a human soul. Some authors have said, that in worth it outweighs worlds. Its happiness, then, is not to be sported with, nor to be wantonly endangered for mere trifles. It is no light matter to be the cause of murder and bloodshed. They who do not acknowledge sacred writ, may learn from history, and from their own observation, how awfully that threatening has been verified, "He that sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." But to be the cause of precipitating into eternity, thousands and ten thousands of immortal souls, whether prepared or unprepared, is a degree of enormity and guilt too great for us to estimate. The French have tried to procure themselves a temporary relief from the bitterness of these reflexions, by rejecting the principles and fears of religion.

If people would consider the ravages and desolations, the miseries and distresses, which follow in the train of insurrection and rebellion, they would pay the taxes and live in quietness: They would retrench some expences in dress and table, or apply an hour or two more, each day, to their lawful occupation; rather than indulge a spirit of envy and discontent, the source of disloyalty,—the source often of



bitter malice and revenge against legal government. Of these it may be said, more justly than in the instance in which the expression was lately applied by a popular orator, that *they draw every thing into their vortex*. No principle is strong enough to oppose their force, no horrors are so ghastly as to restrain their violence: If private revenge be justly condemned as base, unmanly and wicked; revenge of a public nature, revenge against established government, must be much more criminal: For who can limit its pernicious tendency, or say how far its direful effects may reach?—Contingencies often oblige rulers to increase the public taxes; such as wars, conflagrations, national losses and calamities, &c. The inconsistency of those who exclaim against taxes, and with the same breath wish success to the French, must excite indignation; because the longer the French are successful, the longer must the war be continued and taxes be increased. But I trust, that in Great Britain, the true lovers of their country are most numerous, by a very great majority; and what has a virtuous and resolute majority to fear? They will spend the last farthing which they can afford, they will spend the last drop of life, and sell it dear, rather than submit to the French. If French principles, political and religious, prevailed, this world, to any good person, would not be worth the living in.—One's indignation must likewise be raised at hearing of a popular orator introducing into his political harangues, either as a pattern or an apology for the seditious, the effusions of Mr Burke's enthusiasm relating to America. Many men, as wise as Mr Burke, have been in error, and have retracted. The Americans, perhaps, have no great cause now to thank Mr Burke, or any who then favoured their cause. But America is at present out of the question. The French Revolution carries a very different aspect. Mr Burke has published to the world his sentiments



sentiments on this subject, and it were better to bring *them* into the view of malecontents, than his extravagant rhapsodies on American success. Many of the Americans are now ripe for another revolution, and the orator will certainly be on the side of the insurgents. They are contending for *liberty*. Between their ideas, and the ideas of French republicans, there is a strong association. One would almost pronounce them inspired by the same demon. The taxes brought America into my mind. I have heard it mentioned in company, that the Americans paid five times or ten times more taxes now than formerly: And it was answered by some violently attached to them, "What then? they have themselves the power of imposing these taxes,"—a very disputable point; but let it be granted, and it is assigning the same reason for their conduct, that is often assigned for the conduct of children and fools, Let them have but their *will*, and they sacrifice their best interests, and give up with their most valuable friends. During the late American war, nothing was heard among a certain class, but exclamations against the haughty spirit of Britain. America said it would humble the pride of Britain. The French Convention now boast of doing the same; and what was said to Diogenes, is applicable to both. When the Cynic boasted, that "he trampled on the pride of Plato;" "Yes," it was answered, "but you do it with a greater pride."—Let me now ask the admirers of French politics, how they would like the French mode of taxing? They robbed the nobility, the clergy and church; they compelled gentlemen to leave their estates, or invented some ground of accusation and took off their heads, and then seized on their property. After these sources of supply were exhausted, whatever they wanted was put under requisition, and a refusal to comply cost the recusants their heads. Thus men, money, horses and cattle, were levied



in a trice, and to any extent the Convention thought proper. In the Austrian Netherlands, which they lately invaded, young men were required to make roads and canals. Six thousand girls were put under requisition, to attend their sick soldiers. In consequence of this requisition, some thousands of children may appear in proper time, and they will no doubt be claimed as the property of the Republic. They will be dedicated to Mars, and taught to celebrate the rites of the French idol Virility. But this is not all; men, horses and waggons, were put under requisition, to carry all the valuable property of the invaded country to Paris.—In short, what is the French army, but a multitude of lawless armed tax-gatherers, or oppressive free-booters? They first plunder to clothe and feed, and enrich themselves; and then they are ordered to lay heavy contributions on the conquered towns and territories, to enable the Convention to prosecute their levelling and bloody plans, or to support their extravagant luxury. For it has been asserted on good authority, and many will readily believe it, that Parisian luxury, formerly without parallel, has now risen to a most *gigantic* height.

It may be alleged, that these extraordinary methods are at first necessary, but a milder system will be soon adopted. Believe it not. It is against experience, against the doctrine of habits, against the love of power, so natural to the human mind; and against our knowledge of French men, and French manners. They will continue the same arbitrary, insolent, rapacious depredators, till it shall please Providence to overturn their present system. It is enough to shock a serious mind to hear of the absurd and wild conceits, expressed by modern patriots and malecontents. If we profess a regard for the British constitution, and the memory of those who formed it, and left it with us as a sacred deposit: Immediately it is asked, What right had our predecessors



effors to judge for us, or to chuse a political constitution for us?—Such querists ought to be reminded, that of these impertinent inquiries there is no end, till they arrive at that impious one, What right had the Supreme Being to call them into existence, or to determine the place of their habitation? They forget that they are as clay in the hands of the potter. If those who preceded them had no right to chuse a form of government for them, as little right have they to chuse one for their successors; so that every generation might claim the right of chusing their own form of government. Thus, in every period of 30 or 40 years, this point must be agitated and determined. Any person who can reflect, may easily foresee what would be the consequence, amidst the various opinions, the various views and attachments of mankind, amidst interfering interests, and opposite plans and pursuits, such political quarrels and struggles must arise, as would hasten the extinction of the human race.

Suppose a forward inexperienced youth has succeeded to the estate of a father, who, after consulting the best judges, and procuring the best plans, had been at pains to build a proper, commodious, and substantial house for his heir; instead of being pleased with the father's solicitude and attention, the conceited youth exclaimed, What a fool! to pretend to plan and build a house for him. He resolves to pull it down, and to build another to his own liking. A neighbour of prudence and experience came and expostulated with him; told him, that although the house did not entirely correspond to his ideas, it was convenient and comfortable, and might with a few alterations be much improved, perhaps might be made susceptible of elegance and grandeur; if he pulled it down, he might be buried in the ruins, or while he reared a new fabric, the scaffolding might give way, and he be crushed to pieces. But all the calamities



mities which can happen in this instance, afford no adequate representation of the inexpressible ills which must proceed from any violent attempt to pull down an old, and rear up a new fabric of a political constitution. If the old constitution be justly held in veneration, the dangers exceed calculation, the difficulties are almost insurmountable, unless the people who live under it have become quite venal, worthless and degenerate.

I do not mean to apply the foregoing remarks to the people of this parish, or any part of the neighbourhood; but when I go about through the country, I am frequently told that the French have many friends amongst us; and I sometimes hear complaints and grievances repeated. Thus my apprehensions may, perhaps, be too much awakened. After all, I affirm, that if there be 50 persons in a shire disaffected to Government, and attached to French politics and French principles, that is too great a number; because pernicious principles often spread as quickly as any infection; and in matters relating to our best interests, here and hereafter, there should be but one mind, and that manifested by the united energy of the whole nation. Nothing should appear, but a noble and virtuous emulation, who shall be foremost in serving their country.

If it shall please Providence to restore peace to us, if the alien bill be repealed, and a free intercourse be opened with France, the friends of Britain, and of British privileges, cannot have too strict an eye on those who have given cause to suspect their loyalty. Democratical orators, who wish to find the greatest part of the nation fools, or to make them such, will tell us, there is no danger that French principles prevail in Britain. Orators sometimes argue and speak against conviction. These gentlemen, perhaps, do themselves know, where Britons of French principles are to be found, and shrewdly conjecture that many more would



would avow them if a favourable opportunity offered. French principles are too flattering to many classes of people; to the young and the ignorant, the disloyal and dissolute, the ambitious and those of desperate fortunes, to the idle and the indolent, who hate to earn a subsistence by lawful industry, and would wish to see plunder authorised as in France. Such characters are to be found in too many places; persons who would readily proscribe our nobility, gentry and clergy, and eagerly seize on their property. It may not be improper, therefore, to renew an old advice: "Let no price or promise bribe you to take part with the enemies of your King and country. Whoever wins, you are lost. If your Prince prosper, you are proclaimed rebels, and must expect the consequence. If the enemy prevail, you will be reckoned traitors, and though your treason be accepted, you will be hated, suspected and despised."

I have touched the outlines of some of the topics of the day. They have been discussed with ability in Principal Campbell's Sermon on the American War, in Dr Hardy's Patriot, and Dr Young's Essays on Government, &c. It is a pity that these publications are so little consulted, or perused with so much prejudice. Those who write on that side, are often branded with the epithets, *ministerial tools*, *court sycophants*, the slaves of despots, &c. But men ought to listen to reason, to weigh evidence, and regard truth, from what quarter soever they come; and not abandon themselves to passion, resentment and prepossession, which hinder us from discerning what is right and fit, either respecting ourselves or others. A passionate and revengeful temper renders men deaf to advice, or averse to receive it, weakens reason, and robs them of all that is great and noble in their nature; it destroys friendship, con-

found



found the ideas of justice, changes humanity into cruelty, and all order into confusion. It is in vain, therefore, to assert, that the people of Britain are incapable of the barbarities perpetrated in France. The contrary is well known. Political rage, the love of power, and thirst of lucre, transform men into savage monsters. The engaging timidity of the fair sex is lost in more than masculine hardness; the use of the cudgel is substituted for the exercise of the fan; and their musical accents converted into hectoring vociferations.

To conclude: After considering French principles and politics, as explained by their practice, the best interpreter; after contemplating their views of universal depredation and self aggrandizement; I must conclude, that it were better for every Briton able to bear arms, to step forward in defence of our invaluable privileges, and resolutely die in the struggle, than submit to the French. It were better for posterity that Great Britain were turned into a desert, and they forced to seek an asylum among untutored Indians, than become a section of the French Republic. These sentiments may be thought unbecoming the clerical character. I do not think it. All Christians are expressly required to lay down their lives, rather than renounce their religion; and where can we lay them down more properly than in the field, against the enemies of truth, who bring in destructive heresies, denying the Lord that bought them? The spirit of the gospel is indeed the spirit of peace, but it is at the same time the spirit of heroism.



NUMBER XXI.

UNITED PARISHES

OF

SANDWICK AND STROMNESS,

(SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ORKNEY, PRESBYTERY OF  
CAIRSTON.)

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM CLOUSTON.*

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*Short Account of the Orkney Islands.*

**T**HE Orkney islands were originally governed by their own kings, as we are informed by historians, and by the poet Ossian, of still greater antiquity. These islands having been subdued by King Kenneth Macalpin, about the middle of the ninth century, continued from that period annexed to the Scottish throne, until the end of the eleventh century, when they were assigned by King Donald Bane to the King of Norway, to whom they were subject until the middle of the thirteenth century; when they were transferred by Magnus King of Norway to Alexander



King of Scotland. But although these islands were then ceded, the Norwegians still asserted their right to them, and often possessed them, until the year 1470, when James III. of Scotland married Margaret, daughter to the King of Denmark, with whom they again passed to the Crown of Scotland; in lieu of her dowry; and upon the birth of her son (James IV.) they were finally ceded; which was afterwards confirmed, when James VI. of Scotland married Ann daughter of the King of Denmark. These islands having been so long and repeatedly in the possession of the Danes and Norwegians, many of the names of places and persons are derived from the Danish or Scandinavian language.

*Name and Situation.*—Stromness and Sandwick are names to be found in Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland. The first of these may derive its name from *Strom*, or *Straum*, and *Nefs*; this last meaning an extended point of land, and *Strom* the strong tide off that point. The parish of Sandwick, as well as the parish of the same name in the Shetland isles, of a similar situation, may derive its name from *Sand* and *Wick*, as there is a sandy bay on the west side of this parish, *Wick* signifying a bay or inlet of the sea. The centre of these parishes lies in latitude  $58^{\circ} 59'$ ; on the west end of the isle of Pomona, or mainland, late the bishoprick, now the stewartry and county of Orkney, in the Synod and County of Orkney, and in the presbytery of Cairnston; and Stromness is the seat of the said presbytery.

These parishes are bounded by the parish of Birsay on the N.; by the loch of Stennes on the E.; by the channel of Hoy Sound on the S.; and by the Atlantic Ocean on the W. Mr Murdoch Mackenzie surveyed the sea coasts of these parishes in 1740 or 1741.

*Figure*



*Figure and Extent.*—The parish of Sandwick is nearly circular, and indented on the east by the loch of Stennes. The scene which this parish presents to the eye is, that of arable ground, interspersed with grass grounds of a lively green, and here and there we meet with barren breaks, stony and exhausted, which have been stripped of their soil, either for fuel, or to enrich and manure these pleasant cultivated spots. The mosses having been exhausted, and most of the hills stripped of their verdure, it may be presumed this parish has been long inhabited.

The parish of Stromness is of an irregular figure. On the west side, fronting the Atlantic Ocean, is a chain of hills. It slopes towards the south; and all along the channel of Hoy Sound is a tract of fertile fields, agreeably interspersed with grass and arable grounds. From this part of the parish, there is a view which has a good deal of the sublime in it; the mountains of Hoy, and sometimes a cascade of water from these mountains; to the westward of which appear the hills of Strathnaver, and those as far as Farouthead and Cape Wrath. These, with the vast Atlantic Ocean, form a scene picturesque and sublime, which is heightened when the south-west wind blows strong, which leads directly from the Atlantic Ocean. It is this wind which blows with the greatest violence here, and makes the greatest sea. The poet Virgil's description of this wind might well apply to this place,

———— Creberque procellis,  
Africa, et vastos volvit, ad littora fluctus \*.

The fertile pleasant fields of this part of the parish, and the sublime prospect, induced George Graham, the last Bishop of Orkney, to build a house here, where he resided  
some

\* Virg. *Æn.* lib. 1, line 85.



some part of the year. This house is yet standing. The episcopal arms, and the date of the year in which it was built (1633), are cut in free stone above the door.

These parishes were never surveyed with a view to ascertain the precise number of acres which they contain. Mr Murdoch Mackenzie principally directed his attention to the sea coasts, which he has delineated with great exactness. It may be presumed, however, that his map is as near the truth, with regard to the real extent of these parishes, as any idea we can form. By his map it appears, that these parishes are 9 English miles long, and from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles broad. If we fix  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles as the mean breadth, which cannot be far from the truth, then these parishes contain  $31\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, which, at 640 acres to the square mile, will be in whole 20,160 English acres.

*Sea Coasts.*—The whole west coast of these parishes, excepting the Sandy Bay in the parish of Sandwick, are bold and elevated, rising perpendicularly from 100 to 400 or 500 feet in height; which, together with the mountains of Hoy, make it easy to the mariner to distinguish this coast.

The mountains of Hoy are seen from Cape Wrath, which lies distant from Hoy 17 leagues. Along the west coast of these parishes, at one league's distance from the shore, there is 40 or 50 fathoms depth of water. There are no shoals in the channel of Hoy Sound, on the side next these parishes, but two; which may be avoided by keeping two cable lengths from the shore; one of these shoals is visible at two hours ebb. As the coast can be seen at a great distance, and there are no shoals but these two, which are not dangerous, there are consequently few vessels wrecked on the sea coasts of these parishes. The velocity of the spring tides in Hoy Sound is 7 miles in the hour; that of neap tides 3 miles. It is high or slack water in Hoy Sound at



10 o'clock, on the days of new and full moon, and in the harbour of Stromness at 9 o'clock. The flood sets from the N. W. An hour before flood is perceived in the channel of Hoy Sound, a stream sets from the north, along the west coasts of these parishes, keeping this side of the Sound, and continues in this direction; at half ebb another stream sets from the south, along the south side of the Sound, and continues till high water. These streams, when known and attended to, help to facilitate the entrance of shipping into the harbour of Stromness. This harbour lies at the south or south-east extremity of the parish. The entry to it is from the south, and is about a quarter of a mile broad. There is a sand bank at the entry, on the west side, which is not dangerous. Two small islands or holms lie on the east side of the harbour. It is well sheltered from the west and north winds, by a hill that rises above the village of Stromness, and stretches along the harbour on that side. There can be no sea in this harbour with the north-east winds, as it is land-locked on that side, and the violence of the sea, with southerly winds, is broken by Hoy and other islands, which fence it from the seas that lead from the German Ocean into the Pentland Frith. It affords safe anchorage, although the ground has become rather oozy, from being much ploughed. The streams which run into it, carrying mud along with them, have made it more shallow than formerly it was. There is little or no tide in it. It is not a mile long, and not half a mile in breadth. Vessels of 1000 tons burden may anchor in it. A ship of war of 40 guns has anchored here, and had sufficient depth of water. Although it is small, this is one of the safest harbours to be found along the north coast of Britain, being sheltered by high lands on the one side, and on the other side by islands:

—insula



—— insula portum\*

Efficat, objectu laterum, quibus omnis ab alto

Frangitur, inque sinus sciindit sese unda reductos.

Very large vessels usually anchor in Cairnton road, without the small island or holm, that bounds the harbour on the east side, where there is also very good anchorage, greater depth of water, and more space; but there is tide here, greater sea, and it lies more open and exposed. The ebb tide, with a westerly wind, makes a very rough sea near the coast, especially at the top of spring tides, and is called *the roft*. The west coast of these parishes stretch nearly in a straight line from north to south. The extent of the sea coast of these parishes is about 18 miles.

*Soil.*—The soil of these parishes is various. In some places a black earth, mixed with sand, prevails; in other places a stiff clay; black earth alone is found in some places; in others, clay mixed with sand. In the hills of Stromness parish there is a great mixture of sand. The hill that rises above the village of that name, is covered with a great number of stones and rocks of a granite kind, which presents a very rough and barren appearance; but when these stones and rocks are removed, the soil, although shallow, is pretty fertile. On the west side of the parish of Sandwick, near the Sandy Bay, there is a good deal of sandy soil, and an extensive rabbit-warren, which lies north-east from the Bay. This sandy soil has probably been blown from the Sandy Bay, as the south-west winds are the most violent, and it lies in the direction of these winds. The right to the rabbits of this warren is claimed by one heritor, and determined in the courts of law to belong to him alone, although there are several heritors who have arable and grass grounds here, interspersed with those of  
the

\* Virg. Æn. lib. 2. line 159.



the heritor having the exclusive right to the rabbits. There is also what may be called perpetual soil in these parishes, since it has been cultivated, and has produced crops of bear, without intermission, for 50 years, neither fallow nor green crops intervening. If, with this management, it produces crops sufficient to reward the farmer's toil, what might be expected from it, if permitted to rest? but neither example or persuasion will convince the farmer of this, nor even the sweet Mantuan bard's observation,

*Nec ulla interea est inaratæ gratia terræ\*.*

*Climate.*—The air is often raw and damp. In the southern extremity of the parish of Stromness, along the channel of Hoy Sound, it is, perhaps, not so raw as in other parts of this county; the mountains of Hoy attract the clouds, so that it often rains on that side of the channel, when the inhabitants on this side enjoy clear weather. The vicinity of these hills, by attracting the clouds and vapours, probably produces a quicker circulation, as well as a purer state of the air, on this side of the channel, which is conducive both to health and vegetation.

*Diseases.*—Coughs, colds, and sore throats, sometimes prevail in winter and spring, especially in rainy seasons, when the air is not purified by frost, and when long tracts of easterly winds prevail in spring. Rheumatisms are frequent, and consumptions sometimes make their appearance. Scorbutic and cutaneous eruptions are not unfrequent among people who live in damp houses, and have little exercise. The gout is unknown. The people, on the whole, are pretty healthy, although there are not many instances of longevity. Many arrive at the age of 60 or 70 years;

\* Virg. Georg. lib. 1. line 83.



years; a few are to be found of the age of 80 years; but very few arrive at 90 years. A farmer in the parish of Stromness died last spring in the 94th year of his age, who was married to one woman 69 years, who bore to him 8 sons. She is 2 years younger than her husband, and is still alive. This man, till within two years of his death, went as usual about his affairs, cut and brought home his peats, and shot with his gun. He was regular and temperate in his life, and retained his faculties to the last. The oldest man in the parish of Sandwick is 88 years old. There are in the parish of Stromness two men of 86 years, one woman of 90 years, and one of 92 years. There are several past 80; but it is not unfrequent, that when they pass that period, their memory decays, and their faculties are impaired.

*Hills, Lakes, Mosses.*—A great part of the west coast of these parishes consists of hills, occupying an extent of nearly 5 miles in length, and 1 or 2 miles in breadth. Some of these hills take their name from the next inhabited town of land; others are distinguished by particular names, many of which terminate in *field*, which means hill. The names are Cringliefield, Bailliefield, Keirfield. This last is a small hill, in the parish of Sandwick, very beautiful and pleasant, rising with a gentle ascent; it is about a mile and a half in circumference, is always covered with a green verdure, and affords good pasture to sheep. It is peculiar, however, to the sheep that feed upon this hill, that their teeth soon become yellow. There are two or three small lochs, but no mosses in the parish of Sandwick; there are two small mosses in the parish of Stromness, but no lochs.

*Cultivated and uncultivated Grounds.*—As there has never been any exact survey or measurement of these parishes,



ishes, if it is desired to know the number of cultivated acres, it must be supplied from conjecture, which probably in this case is not far from the truth. A plough turns from 4 to 14 Orkney planks \*. The medium may be about 8 Orkney planks arable ground to each plough. The infield and out-field grass, exclusive of hill-pasture, may be about as much, or rather more. From the best conjecture that can be formed on this subject, the division of these parishes in cultivated and uncultivated grounds is as follows :

	Acres.
Arable ground, 227 ploughs, at $9\frac{1}{2}$ acres to each plough, - - -	2116
Arable spots cultivated about the village of Stromness, - - -	30
Grass-grounds, infield, outfield, and meadow, - - -	2116
Grass-ground of Keirfield hill, in parish of Sandwich, -	400
Mosses in the parish of Stromness, - - -	500
570 inhabited houses, with gardens, occupying - - -	200
Two small lochs in the parish of Sandwich, - - -	640
Hills and uncultivated grounds, - - -	14,158
Total, - - -	<hr/> 20,160

Thus it appears, that the arable ground is not one-ninth part of the whole, and that the grass-grounds are only one-eighth part of the whole extent; that two-thirds of the whole consists of uncultivated hills and brakes, of no advantage but to give a little fuel, and pasture about 2000 sheep.

*Agriculture, Implements of Husbandry.*—The plough used here is the single stilted, the same as is used in most  
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\* A plank is a term used in measuring grounds in Orkney. The plank is 40 fathoms square, and consequently contains 1600 square fathoms.



parts of this county. In holding this plough, the ploughman bends to the soil, and may well be denominated *curvus arator*, as Virgil does the Roman ploughman. The two stilted plough is used by a few, which answers best for tilling oat-land, and the other for tilling bear-land. They till with three horses abreast; some till with two horses; but few till with four horses. Oxen are little used in tillage, but they are used for harrowing, and carting peats. Harrows with wooden teeth are for the most part used; a few use iron-teethed harrows. *Crebris insectabere rastris*, is an injunction which the farmers here do not much practice, as they think the soil cannot bear much harrowing, and that it produces a short light crop. They till rather shallow, and rely more on the quantity of manure than on any thing else, for raising a good crop. Fallowing is rarely or not at all used by the small farmers. The first residing heritor, William Wall, Esq; fallows a proportionable quantity of his farm yearly, and consequently raises grain of a superior quality; he is also making inclosures. On the upland farms, distant from the manure of sea-weed, a spot of half an acre on each farm is laid lea, which they plough before or after harvest, and sow it with bear the following year; but as the weeds have generally shed their seeds before this ploughing, it can be of little advantage. This, however, is all the rest the land has.

*Rotation of Crops.*—If there was a proper rotation of crops, the land might receive some rest by this means;

“ Sic quoque mutatis requiescunt sætibus arva \*.”

But the constant rotation of crops, is that of oats and bear in alternate succession. Some spots have yielded crops of bear

\* Virg. Georg. lib. i. lin. 82.



bear yearly, without a change of crop, for 50 years. No pease or turnip are raised, but by the first residing heritor already mentioned. A small spot on each farm is planted with potatoes, of which none were planted 50 years ago; but they now constitute a principal part of food.

*Carts.*—There were no carts here 50 years ago. They are now getting into use. They are sometimes drawn by a single horse, but more frequently by oxen. The number of carts is,

Parish of Sandwick,	-	11
Parish of Stromness,	-	12
		<hr/>
Total,		23

*Seed-time and Harvest.*—Oats are sown in March, and the first of April. Bear is usually sown from the 1st to the 20th day of May. The summer is employed in preparing fuel, and carrying home peats. The crop is reaped from the 20th August, and if the season is favourable, harvest is done by the last of September or the first of October. *Hiems ignava colono* is verified here, for there is no labour carried on during winter, except thrashing and preparing the crop. Then it is that the farmer enjoys the fruit of his labour, and to this season they look forward for the reward of their toil. They make malt, and as the excise is compounded, the greater part of them brew ale, and drink it with one another alternately. There is no doubt but a great deal of the crop is consumed in this way; but if used with moderation, it is what they are entitled to from the labours of the year, and the season perhaps requires it. Mirth and hilarity appear in a circle of neighbours met, thus to enjoy themselves during the rigour of the season, and here the poet's description is realised:

" *Frigoribus*



" Frigoribus parto agricolæ plerumque frunatur,

" Mutuaque inter se liti convivia curant;

" Invitat genialis hiems, curæque resolvit \*."

*Manure.*—In the upland farms, distant from the sea, the only manure they have is the dung of their horses and cattle, with seal and divot cut from the hill and brakes. They build a spot of 10 or 12 feet in diameter with seals, which they fill with dung, ashes, and cut seals. These compost dunghills are carried on the land in spring, spread, and tilled down.

*Sea-weed.*—In parts near the sea, they principally depend on sea weed or ware, which, with some little dung and house manure, raises excellent crops. In some places of the parish of Sandwick that lie in the vicinity of the sea-shore, they put, in winter, sea-ware on their grounds; in spring they put on the dung from the compost dunghills; and if plenty of sea-ware is drove ashore, they put on sea-ware again, before they till and sow with bear. The ground, thus thrice manured, produces a luxuriant appearance of crop, and a good one if the season is dry; but if the season is wet and rainy, it falls down before it is filled, and then seldom ripens well.

*Marl.*—In a few places marl is found. It is taken up in summer, and laid to dry. Then it is laid on lea-grounds and spread, and in harvest it is tilled down.

*Lime.*—There is appearance of limestone in both these parishes. There is limestone in the parish of Sandwick, which lies in the direction of from S. S. W. to N. N. E.;  
and

\* Virg. Georg. lib. i. lin. 300.



and excellent lime is made there by the first residing heritor William Wall, Esq; but none is used as a manure. The petrified sand in these parishes also burns to lime.

*Crops.*—The crops are very unequal in produce. In the months of July and August the appearance is very promising, but the storms of wind in the month of September often injure the crop. These gales are usually from the W. and S. W. and sweeping over the Atlantic Ocean, are collected, as it were in a narrow stream, by the mountains of Hoy, and act with great violence. The two most violent storms at the harvest season, for 30 years past, were in September 1765, and on the 14th August 1778. The sea-spray has been known to reach 12 miles distant from the craggy western coast of these parishes, which makes the fodder salt, and often hurtful to cattle. The fear of these storms may be said to hurt the crop every year, as it induces the farmers to cut down their crop before it is fully ripe. As their farms are small, and their circumstances straitened, these considerations, joined to the recollection of what injury their crops have formerly sustained, make them eager to begin harvest; and if it be observed to them, that they lose by this conduct, they answer, that a green sheaf is better than a shaken sheaf. It may be thought that this might be remedied by sowing more early, and consequently bringing on the harvest before the autumnal and equinoctial gales come on; but the spring season seldom admits of this. In some places where the grounds are dry, they do sow more early when the season admits of it; but neither does this always succeed, because there often happens such cold weather in May, as nips the crop, makes it short and stunted, thin, and small in the ear. The uncertainty of the seasons hurts the crop, both as to quantity and quality. As the farms are small, the present necessity

of



of the farmer cannot permit him to fallow any considerable part of his grounds; it consequently follows that the grounds are very dirty and full of weeds, by which also the crop is hurt.

It may consequently appear, that this climate is better adapted to raising crops of grass, but that has not been attempted, except in very small spots. Straited circumstances, short leases, and the payment of the rent in malt, are bars to this. To carry this plan into execution, it would be necessary that the proprietors, or the tenants, should have the command of money to defray the expence of inclosing, which has not been the case with the residing proprietors, or their tenants, for some time past. It would also, perhaps, require a better market for cattle than is to be found at the village of Stromness.

From the great uncertainty of the seasons, and consequent variableness of the crop, no precise or fixed estimate can be made of the whole produce. The ground that each farm contains is not ascertained, and few or none keep an exact account of the produce of their farms, nor can they well do it, as they are in the practice of keeping up their stock of horses by buying young ones of a year old, on whom they bestow a considerable part of their crop, before they are reared fit for tilling. If an estimate was made of the whole produce, it would be mere conjecture. If we were to hazard such conjecture, the principles upon which we would proceed would be these. We would first ascertain the number of acres cultivated by each plough, and then fix on what we know an acre of middling soil has, or may produce, in seasons not unfavourable. Upon these principles it will stand thus :



*of Sandwich and Stromnefs.*

423

	Acres.
227 ploughs, at $9\frac{1}{2}$ English acres to each plough, is	2116
Deduct $\frac{1}{4}$ acre from each plough, laid lea, is	56
Deduct $\frac{1}{4}$ acre from each plough, in potatoes,	56
	<hr/> 112
Remains cultivated to bear and oats,	2004

	Bolls.
1002 acres in bear, at 5 bolls <i>per</i> acre, is	5010
1002 acres in oats, at 9 bolls <i>per</i> acre, is	9018
Deducting a boll bear <i>per</i> acre, and three bolls oats <i>per</i> acre for feed, there remains,	
Of bear,	4008
Of oats,	6012

The value of the crop, after deducting the feed, may be as follows :

4008 bolls bear, at 10 s. <i>per</i> boll, is	-	L. 2004	0	0
6012 bolls oats, usually producing one-third part meal, after deducting multure, is 2004 bolls meal, at 10 s. <i>per</i> boll, is	-	1002	0	0
56 acres potatoes, producing 60 barrels <i>per</i> acre, is 3360 barrels, at 1 s. 6 d. <i>per</i> barrel, is	-	252	0	0
Total value of the crop, after deducting feed and multure,	-	L. 3258	0	0

The above statement is probably not far from the truth in good seasons. When the seasons are bad, the crop will not be half of this. No estimate can be made of the hay produced, as it is usually given to horses and cattle, and seldom



seldom any part of it is sold. Before stating the valued or real rent, it is necessary to observe, that the rent was, and is still paid by pundlar and bismar weight; which mode of payment has been continued ever since the Danes had possession of the Orkney Islands.

The meel is about  $11\frac{1}{2}$  or  $11\frac{1}{2}$  stone, Dutch weight.

The setting is one-sixth part of the meel, or 32 lb.

The merk is one twenty-fourth of the setting, or  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lb.

The lispund is rather more than the setting\*.

*Valued Rent.*—At the time of the valuation in 1653

The bishoprick rents were valued at	L. 2593 19 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
The rent of the other proprietors, at	2414 1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
<hr/>	
Total valuation of both parishes,	L. 5008 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$

The sundry articles of rent amounting to this sum, were as stated in the note below †.

*Real*

\* For a further account of these weights, see Statistical Account of Crofs and Burness, vol. 7.

† 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ barrels 9 lispunds 2 merks butter, at L. 20 per barrel,	-	-	L. 432 12 0
Oat-meal, 142 meels 1 setting 4 merks, at L. 4 per meel,	-	-	568 16 5
Malt, 1001 meels 1 setting, at L. 3 : 6 : 8 per meel,	-	-	3338 5 4
Flesh, 4 lasts 14 meels 2 settings, at L. 1 per meel,	-	-	110 13 4
Wool, 5 lispunds, at L. 6 per lispund,	-	-	30 0 0
Oil, 2 barrels 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lispunds, at L. 20 per barrel,	-	-	48 8 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Money,	-	-	479 5 6
			<hr/>
			L. 5008 0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$



**Real Rent.**—The real rent of these parishes, as proven by oath of the heritors to the Court of Session in 1753, when the stipend of these parishes was modified, was,

	<i>Butter.</i>			<i>Meal.</i>			<i>Malt.</i>			<i>Scots.</i>		
	Barrels.	lisp.	mrks.	Meels.	sett.	mrks.	Meels.	sett.	mrks.	L.	s.	d.
Sandwich,	17 $\frac{1}{8}$	39	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	604	5	10 $\frac{4}{8}$	634	14	4
Stromness,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	27	5	8	413	5	17 $\frac{6}{8}$	846	17	9
Total,	20 $\frac{1}{8}$	68	22	68	5	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1017	10	27 $\frac{10}{8}$	1481	12	13

The above rent, converted by their Lordships at L. 4 Scots *per* meel malt, L. 5 *per* meel oat-meal, L. 20 *per* barrel butter, amounted to L. 6508 : 17 : 6 Scots, or L. 542 : 8 : 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling.

As the rent continues to be paid, for the most part, in the same articles, it has not increased, or has increased but very inconsiderably in denomination. The rents of the bishoprick or Crown-lands, which, together with the feuduties payable to the Crown, amount to one-half of the whole rents, have rarely been augmented. But although there is no rise in the rent as to the articles paid in kind, yet these articles have increased in value. The real rent of these parishes, including kelp, mills and quarries, may be estimated at the present period (1794) as follows :

20 $\frac{1}{8}$ barrels butter, at L. 3 <i>per</i> barrel,	L. 62	0	0
68 lispunds 22 merks butter, at 8 s. <i>per</i>			
lispund,	-	27	11 4
Oat-meal, 68 meels 5 settings 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ merks,			
at 15 s. <i>per</i> meel, is	-	51	13 6
Carried forward,	L. 113	11	4 10



Brought forward,	L. 141	4	19
Malt, 1018 meels 5 settings $3\frac{2}{5}$ merks,			
at 10s. <i>per</i> meel, is	-	509	8 7
Money, L. 1481 : 12 : 1 Scots, is of Ster-			
ling money	-	123	9 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Augmented rent on a few farms,	-	20	0 0
Rent of about 30 acres near the village			
of Stromness,	-	25	0 0
Total rent paid from the soil,	L. 819	2	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rent of a slate quarry and a mill-stone			
quarry,	-	20	0 0
Rent of 8 water-mills, deducting expence			
of supporting them,	-	40	0 0
Kelp, profits on 50 tons, at L. 3 <i>per</i> ton,			
deducting expence of making,		150	0 0
Total revenue to the proprietors,	L. 1029	2	9 $\frac{1}{2}$

Beside the above rent, a few poultry and geese are paid, which may amount to L. 10 or L. 15 value. From the foregoing statement of the number of acres cultivated, the produce thereof, and the rent payable therefrom, the following observations may be made: *1<sup>st</sup>*, That as the whole rent is L. 819 : 2 : 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  paid from the soil, this is, exclusive of the grass grounds, 7s. 8 $\frac{2}{5}$ d. for each English acre of arable ground. If one-third part of the rent be laid on the grass grounds, then it will be 5s. 1 $\frac{9}{16}$ d. *per* acre of the arable grounds, and 2s. 7 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. *per* acre of the grass grounds. *2<sup>dly</sup>*, That as the value of the whole produce from the arable grounds, in good seasons, exclusive of the profits from the grass grounds, amounts to L. 3258, and the rent payable from the soil is L. 819 : 2 : 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ , that

is,



is, nearly one-fourth part of the whole produce, after deducting seed and multure; that therefore the lands are moderately rented. But this will not appear to be the case, when we consider, 1st, The want of good and regular markets for the produce; 2dly, The increased expence of farming, and especially of servants wages; 3dly, The difficulty of obtaining servants, even at the advanced wages.

*Services.*—The tenants of the residing heritors usually assist for 2 days in carrying home on their horses the proprietors peats, and this is almost the only service required of them. All services are the remains of the old feudal system, and it is argued that they ought to be abolished, as they impede improvements. But such small services as these are no bar to improvements; for the tenants of the non-residing heritors, who pay no services, do not improve their lands more than those tenants do who perform these services.

*State of Property.*—In the times of Episcopacy, the Bishop held the property of about one half of the parish of Sandwich, and a small property in the parish of Stromness; so that, with the feu-duties payable to him from the other proprietors, he received nearly one half of the rent of both parishes. These lands being now vested in the Crown, are set in tack by the Exchequer to the Right Honourable Lord Dundas of Aske, for a yearly tack-duty. George Graham, Bishop of Orkney, possessed, as private property, nearly one third part of these parishes, which property is now transferred to William Watt, Esq. These two great proprietors, with two more heritors, of whom James Riddoch, Esq. Collector of his Majesty's Customs, is one, receive among them about three-fourths of the rents; and the



the remaining fourth part is the property of nearly 100 small heritors.

As the bishoprick lands are annexed to the Crown, and cannot be transferred, it is only the remaining part, the property of private individuals, that can come into the market for sale. Within these last 20 years, above one half of this remaining saleable property has been sold, and some of it at from 30 to 50 years purchase. There is no reason to regret that property changes its masters, for these new proprietors are the best improvers of the soil, by inclosing, adopting new modes of agriculture, building comfortable houses, and erecting mills.

About 70 years ago lands were sold at 20 years purchase, and below it; but since the village of Stromness has increased in number of inhabitants, in wealth and trade, lands have risen in value; as the shopkeepers, who have made any money, chuse to vest it in lands or houses, the inland trade being limited, and they do not incline to establish manufactures, or engage in foreign trade. The demand also by shipping of some of the articles raised, and the increased prices given, have tended to raise the value of property, although these prices are still inadequate to what the farmer might expect, considering the great increase of expence in rearing these commodities.

*Heritors.*—At the time of the last valuation or extent in 1653, there were 145 heritors, exclusive of the bishoprick lands then vested in the Crown. At that time there was but one proprietor of the name of Halcre, and four of the name of Sinclair, of very inconsiderable property, although these were the greatest names in this county formerly; one of the Sinclair's having born the title of Prince of Orkney, and Duke of Oldenburgh, and was allied by marriage to the royal family of Denmark.—In 1753, when a  
modified



modified stipend was obtained, the number of heritors was 140. At the present time (1794) there are 95 heritors. The great proprietors are Lord Dundas, holding in lease the Crown-lands; William Watt, James Riddoch, William Graham, and William Honyman, Esqrs. These hold about three-fourths of the property.

In the village of Stromness there are 222 inhabited houses, the property of 59 proprietors. Many of these houses are occupied by the proprietors, and were never let for rent; but these houses either are, or might be rented as follows :

No. of houses.	No. of families.	Rent of each house.	Total Rent.
6	10	L. 10 0 0	L. 60 0 0
2	5	9 0 0	18 0 0
3	5	8 0 0	24 0 0
1	2	7 10 0	7 10 0
12	16	6 0 0	72 0 0
24	25	5 0 0	120 0 0
13	20	4 0 0	52 0 0
24	60	3 0 0	72 0 0
7	17	2 10 0	17 10 0
21	42	2 0 0	42 0 0
13	26	1 10 0	19 10 0
8	13	1 5 0	10 0 0
13	20	1 0 0	13 0 0
12	12	0 15 0	9 0 0
22	28	0 10 0	11 0 0
10	10	0 7 6	3 15 0
31	31	0 5 0	7 15 0
<b>Total 222</b>	<b>342</b>		<b>L. 561 0 0</b>
A warehouse and a wharf, if rented, might give			15 0 0
<b>Total rent,</b>			<b>L. 576 0 0</b>



From the high price of materials and workmanship, building is as dear here as in many other parts of the kingdom. The best houses, when rented, do not give above 3 *per cent.* of the cost in building; small houses give 5 or 6 *per cent.* It may be thought that traders of small capitals might employ their money to more advantage than in building houses which give such poor returns; nevertheless, those who can afford it, rather chuse to build, and occupy a house of their own, than pay the moderate rent of such a house. Small quays are raised to defend the houses next the sea, and some houses are erected on foundations built in the sea.

*Farm Stocking.*—The number of horses in the following list will appear great, when compared to the number of acres cultivated, and the quantity of grain raised. It is the pride of the farmers to keep as many, and as good horses as they can afford, and therefore they give them a considerable part of the oat-crop. It is usual at a marriage, when returning from church, to try who can ride foremost to the wedding house, and they are as keen in the race, and perhaps as much elated with the victory, as those of higher rank are at Newmarket.

The following is an exact list taken in July 1794, except that the precise number of sheep and swine cannot be ascertained :

	Sandwich parish.	Stromness parish.	Village of Stromness.	Total.
Horses,	518	340	—	858
Horned cattle,	1060	665	70	1795
Sheep, (supposed),	1000	1000	100	2100
Swine, (supposed),	250	250	—	500
Ploughs,	123	104	—	227
Carts,	11	12	—	23
Boats,	10	9	76	95

Horses



Horfes fell at from L. 3 to L. 9, according to their age and fize; but the value of the whole may be about L. 4 each. If it is defired to know the value of the flocking, it may be ftated as follows:

858 horfes, at L. 4 each, is	-	L. 3432	0	0
1795 horned cattle, at L. 1, 5 s. each, is		2243	15	0
2100 fheep, young and old, at 3 s. each,		315	0	0
500 fwine, at 4 s. each,	-	100	0	0
Total value of live flock,	-	L. 6090	15	0

*Price of Labour.*—A ploughman receives from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3, 10 s. yearly, with board; a man fervant, for the harveft, from 12 s. to 20 s. with board; a female fervant, for the harveft, from 8 s. to 12 s. with board; a female fervant, from 12 s. to L. 1 yearly, with board; a mafon, from 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s. *per* day, without board; a flater receives from 17 s. to L. 1, 7 s. *per* rood, according to the fize of flates; a houfe-carpenter, from 1 s. to 1 s. 8 d. *per* day, without board; a fhip-carpenter, from 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s. *per* day, without board; a tailor is paid by the piece; day-labourers receive 10 d. or 1 s. in fummer, and 8 d. in winter, *per* day, without board.

*Price of Grain and Provisions.*—The price of grain varies greatly. When the crop is good, the price falls very low, as it is but feldom any is exported; and, when it is exported, the lower ranks murmur. When the crop fails, the price is high, occafioned by the additional expence of freight and infurance upon what is imported: Oat-meal varies from 1 s. 3 d. to 2 s. 6 d. *per* ftone; malt from 11 s. to 17 s. *per* meel, of 11½ ftone Dutch; beef fells at 1½ d. to 2 d. *per* lb. Englifh weight; butter fells at from 4 d. to 6 d. *per* lb. Englifh weight; a goofe fells at 1 s. or 1 s. 3 d.;  
poultry



poultry sell at from 4 d. to 6 d. each; eggs sell at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  d. or 2 d. *per* dozen; pork sells at 2 d. *per* lb. Mutton is usually sold by the quarter, or whole carcase.

*Population.*—In the process for augmentation of stipend, (1754), the minister of these parishes represented to the Lords Commissioners for the valuation of teinds, that these parishes contained 2400 examinable persons, and in whole 3000 people; that of these there was in the village of Stromness 1000. There are at present (1794) in the village of Stromness 1344 souls, and yet the whole population is only about the same as that stated in 1754; by which it appears, that the population of the two country parishes has decreased, in the same proportion as that of the village has increased. By an exact list, taken in June 1794, the population is as follows:

	No. of houses.	No. of families	Males.	Females.	Tot. males & females
Sandwich parish,	165	165	416	457	873
Stromness parish,	184	184	348	449	795
Vill. of Stromness,	222	342	493	851	1344
Total,	571	691	1255	1757	3012

Persons to a family:

In the parish of Sandwich, nearly  $5\frac{1}{2}$ .

In the parish of Stromness, nearly  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

In the village of Stromness, nearly 4; or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to a family, and  $6\frac{1}{4}$  to a house.

Proportion of males to females:

Parish of Sandwich, nearly as 10 males to 11 females.

Parish of Stromness, nearly as 3 males to 4 females.

Village of Stromness, nearly as  $12\frac{1}{2}$  males to 21 females.

The



The great disproportion of males to females in the village of Stromness, is occasioned by the young men going abroad to various parts of the world; to the Greenland fishery, the coal-trade, Hudson's Bay, and many are to be found in his Majesty's navy.

*Baptisms and Marriages.*—To evade the fees to session-clerk and officer, and also the late tax upon registration, or through mere inattention, many parents neglect to have their childrens names inserted in the parish-register of births. The number of burials cannot be ascertained, as there are no dues to the session-clerk therefrom, and consequently no regular account has been kept. The baptisms and marriages recorded for 3 years are as follow :

	<i>Baptisms.</i>		<i>Marriages.</i>
	Females.	Males.	
1791. Sandwich parish,	4	5	6
Ditto. Stromness parish & village,	17	30	15
1792 Sandwich parish,	16	6	—
Ditto. Stromness parish & village,	22	26	14
1793. Sandwich parish,	10	8	3
Ditto. Stromness parish & village,	23	24	7
Total in both parishes for 3 years,	92	99	44
	99		
Total baptisms recorded,)	191		

The average number of baptisms yearly recorded is 63 $\frac{1}{3}$ . The average number of marriages yearly is 14 $\frac{1}{3}$ . The proportion of baptisms recorded is, to the whole population, nearly as 1 to 48 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The proportion of marriages to the whole population is as 1 to 210. The proportion of males to females born is 14 males to 13 females.



## Population and Statistical Table.

	Sandwich parish.	Stromness parish	Vill. of Stromness	TOTAL.
Total population,	873	795	1344	3012
Males, -	416	346	493	1255
Females, -	457	449	851	1757
Married persons,	232	238	404	874
Widowers, -	15	11	11	37
Widows, -	27	35	47	109
Male servants,	45	41	—	86
Female servants,	74	45	118	237
Seamen, -	—	2	60	62
Ship-carpenters,	—	—	18	18
Shop-keepers,	1	—	25	26
Weavers, -	7	11	15	33
Tailors, -	2	3	11	16
Shoemakers,	7	7	13	27
Joiners, -	1	5	8	14
Masons, -	1	1	13	15
Coopers, -	—	—	7	7
Blacksmiths,	2	—	15	17
Flax-dressers,	—	—	3	3
Day-labourers,	—	5	22	27
Writers, -	—	—	2	2
Customhouse surveyors,	—	—	2	2
— tide waiters,	—	—	3	3
— boatmen,	—	—	6	6
Surgeons, -	—	—	1	1
Clergyman, established,	—	—	—	1

*Manufactures.*—Coarse woollen cloths and stuffs are made for household-use, but in no great quantity. Linen is also made for wearing apparel. The principal manufactures carried on here, are knitting stockings, and spinning linen yarn. In the first of these they greatly excel, and from constant practice, make the stockings very smooth and glossy. Young girls of 10 or 12 years of age can knit well. A great part of these stockings is sold to sailors at 1 s. 6 d. to 5 s. a pair. They have been made so fine as to sell for 10 s. or 15 s. a pair.

*Kelp.*



**Kelp.**—As the west coast of these parishes is high and rocky, the quantity of kelp made is not considerable. The sea-weed on the shores is cut and burnt only once in two or three years. No kelp is made from the sea-ware that is driven ashore from the ocean. About 150 tons may be made once in three years; that is, at an average, 50 tons yearly; of which about 8 tons are made in the parish of Sandwich, and about 42 tons yearly in the parish of Stromness.

**Fisheries.**—The fish caught here are cod, ling, skate, holybut, haddocks, lobsters, &c. Cod and ling are caught about a league's distance from the west coast of these parishes. Three boats only are employed in this fishing in the parish of Sandwich, and as many in the parish of Stromness. The outfit and expence on this fishing, and the returns in good seasons, are as follow :

A boat costs	-	-	L. 7	0	0
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A great line of 1000 fathoms, and 20 score of hooks,	-	-	4	0	0
------------------------------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---

A small line of 300 hooks,	-	-	1	0	0
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Total expence of outfit,	-	-	L. 12	0	0
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Returns.

From 300 to 500 ling, say 400 ling, at 1s.	L. 20	0	0
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Cod, and other small fish caught, worth	12	0	0
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Total returns from one boat,	-	-	L. 32	0	0
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Yearly expence.

4 barrels salt, if duty paid, is	L. 4	0	0
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Tear and wear of boat and lines,	3	0	0
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Salting and curing the fish,	2	0	0
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Spirits and victuals to fishermen,	1	10	0
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Nett yearly profits to be divided,	-	-	L. 21	10	0
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The



The above L. 21, 10s. is to be divided among the crew, if they are themselves the owners of the boat and lines. If they fish for an employer, who is owner of the boat and lines, as is generally the case, then the crew shares L. 14, 6s. 8d. and the employer L. 7 : 3 : 4, when the fish are cured with duty-paid salt. If the fish are cured with bonded salt, there is an additional profit of L. 1, 12s. This fishing may be more profitable than has been stated, in the parish of Sandwick, but is seldom even so profitable in the parish of Stromness.

*Lobsters.*—A couple of boats in the parish of Stromness are employed in catching lobsters, which are sold to the smacks, who carry them to London.

*Seals.*—It was usual for a sloop to go once a-year, about Martinmas, to the small isle or rock of Soullkerry, which lies W. N. W. about 10 leagues distant, and there kill seals, which resort to that rock in great numbers. The surge is so great around that rock, that it often happened they could not effect a landing; or, if the men were landed, they, and the seals, which they killed, could not be got off but with difficulty, and considerable risk. In November 1786, a sloop upon this adventure, from the village of Stromness, was driven by tempestuous weather to the North Faro Isles, and there wrecked with 22 men aboard, 3 of whom were saved, and 19 perished. Since that fatal accident, this perilous fishing has been abandoned.

*Sillock Fishing.*—The most beneficial, and most generally useful fishing, is that of the sillocks, a small grey fish, which are caught in great numbers, from September to March, in the harbour of Stromness, to which they usually resort for food and shelter. This is a fish of a sweet and pleasant  
: taste,



tacks, and yields a considerable quantity of oil. From 50 to 100 men and boys may be seen catching them in good weather, either with bait or fly, in boats, or along the quays, in the harbour of Stromness.

*Village of Stromness.*—This village, situated on the west side of the harbour, near the southmost extremity or neils of this parish, from whence it derives its name, was, in the beginning of the present century, very inconsiderable, consisting only of half a dozen houses with slated roofs, and a few scattered huts, the first inhabited by two gentlemen of landed property, and two or three small traders; the last by a few fishermen and mechanics. Two small vessels, of 30 tons each, were all that then belonged to it. These were employed in catching cod and ling at Barra, and made usually once a year a voyage to Leith or Norway.

In 1719, this village was assessed by the borough of Kirkwall, in the payment of cels or stent, in terms of the 12th act of King William and Queen Mary, 1st Parliament 1690, by which act it is declared, That the exporting or importing of native or foreign commodities belongs only to freemen, inhabitants of royal boroughs, excepting the articles of corn, cattle, minerals, coal, salt, lime, and stone. By this act the boroughs were not authorised to admit the traders in villages to a participation of trade. This defect of the law, as it then stood, was remedied by the 30th act of King William and Queen Mary, 1st Parliament 1693; by which act it was declared, “ That the benefit of trade “ allowed to royal boroughs, might be communicated in “ favours of burghs of regality, barony, and others, on their “ relieving the royal boroughs of a proportion of the tax “ laid on them.” By the articles of Union, 7th act of Queen Anne, article 21. of Parliament 1. 1707, it was declared, “ That the rights of royal boroughs should remain “ entire,



"entire, as they then were, after the Union, and notwithstanding thereof." Upon these acts the borough of Kirkwall claimed right to exact, from the village of Stromness, a proportionable share of the cefs and burdens, which, by the tax-roll that borough was liable to pay; and that, upon payment of such proportion, the borough of Kirkwall would admit the inhabitants of the village of Stromness to a communication of trade, which was accordingly complied with, and was continued from 1719 to 25th May 1743, when the inhabitants of the village of Stromness refused to pay the cefs or stent to the borough of Kirkwall, alleging, that the sum laid on them was more than their proportion, and more than their trade could bear; and, besides, that it was partially laid on the several traders of this village, and not in due proportion to the extent of their trade. The magistrates of Kirkwall stated to the Honourable the Convention of Royal Boroughs, that, by the tax-roll, they were liable in payment of cefs and stent, (Scots) L. 687 0 0 That missive dues, fitting of eques, and collectors

salaries, amounted to	-	-	263	0	0
			<hr/>		
			L. 950	0	0

That they only exacted from the village of Stromness one third part of this; and that in time past all they had received was,

From the village of Stromness,	-	L. 204	0	0
From the traders in other parts,	-	154	0	0
		<hr/>		
		L. 358	0	0

So that there still remained a burden on the borough of Kirkwall of L 592 Scots.

The inhabitants of the village of Stromness stated, on the other side, to the Convention in 1751, that the trade  
of



of this village was small, and, as it depended on the resort of shipping, it was uncertain: That the borough of Kirkwall enjoyed great advantages from its right to vote for a member of Parliament; from being the seat of Justice: That the revenues of the borough were great, from their burgage-holdings, cels of houses, fiars, markets, and customs; and, therefore, one sixth part of the whole burdens, instead of one third part demanded, would be found a full and equal proportion for the village of Stromness; which sixth part of the whole they were willing to pay. This offer was rejected. The matter was brought before the Court of Session; and on the 17th February 1754, a decision was obtained, declaring, "There was no sufficient right in the borough of Kirkwall to assess the village of Stromness, but that the said village should be quit thereof, and free therefrom, in all time coming." From this decision the magistrates of Kirkwall appealed to the High Court of Parliament, and this cause was heard at the bar of the House of Lords, the 16th January 1758, when the decision of the Court of Session was affirmed. By this decision the village of Stromness, and all the villages throughout Scotland, became free and independent of the Royal Boroughs. Before this process, the trade of this village was greatly cramped by its dependence on the borough of Kirkwall, as well as during the process, by the expences in supporting it; which expence hurt the circumstances of many of the small traders; and one of those who first suggested it, and was most active in promoting it, (Alexander Graham), was thereby rendered unable to carry on trade, whose widow is still alive, and in reduced circumstances. The present Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, (then Mr Wedderburn), was counsel for the inhabitants of this village, at the bar of the House of Peers.

Since



Since this struggle for independence, the trade of the village has greatly increased, which is in a great measure owing to the resort of shipping to this place.

While the American Colonies were connected with, and dependent upon Britain, several American vessels came here, and entered their cargoes at the sight of the officers of the customhouse of Kirkwall, preferring this place even to Cowes, in the Isle of Wight. The advantages resulting herefrom to this village, induced some mercantile people at the borough of Kirkwall to attempt bringing these vessels there; and, in order to effect this, they represented the harbour of Stromness as a small creek, to which the port of Kirkwall was preferable.

The American goods were unloaded, and weighed aboard an old and large dismasted vessel, which lay in the harbour of Stromness for this purpose. This dismasted vessel or hulk was brought to the harbour of Kirkwall, with a view to bring the American vessels there; but this did not succeed, as they then preferred going to Cowes, in the Isle of Wight, and entering at the customhouse there, on their way to Holland and the East countries.

The



The number of vessels, with the quantity of rice entered for three years, the duty paid, and drawback upon exportation, with the amount of the remaining duties, was:

Year when entered.	No. of vessels.	Quantity of rice entered.		Full duty thereof.		Drawback on exportation.		Remaining duties.	
		Cwt.	qr. lb.	L.	s. d.	L.	s. d.	L.	s. d.
From Oct. 10. 1757 to Oct. 10. 1758.	9	18,254	1 19	5826	5 0	5231	6 0½	594	18 11½
From Oct. 1758 to Oct. 1759.	7	21,329	0 20	6801	8 7½	6130	17 6½	670	11 1
From Oct. 1759 to Oct. 1760.	3	4871	0 26	1554	14 11	1400	9 9½	154	5 1½
	19	44,454	3 9	14,182	8 6½	12,762	13 4½	1419	15 2½



From this abstract, taken from the customhouse-books, it appears, there were 19 vessels entered in three years, whose cargoes consisted of 44,454 cwt. 3 qrs. 9 lb. rice; the duty on which, if not exported, would have been L. 14,182 : 8 : 6½; but, as the whole was exported, the drawback on exportation reduced this duty to L. 1419, 15 s. 2½ d.

Since the independence of America, all hopes of the produce of the Southern States of North America passing this way are lost. The produce, however, of our settlements at Hudson's Bay still pass this way.

*Hudson's Bay Company's Ships.*—Hudson's Bay was discovered by Henry Hudson, in 1610. France, after disputing the right to it, finally ceded it to Britain, at the treaty of Utrecht. Since 1670, the trade to that country has been carried on by a Company, who have an exclusive charter. The capital of this Company, originally L. 10,565 : 12 : 6, has been increased to L. 104,146, 17 s. 6 d. This Company fits out three ships, from 150 to 400 tons each, which carry out provisions, guns, powder, shot, hatchets, cloths, &c. to be exchanged with the Indians for beaver, and other furs. These vessels usually arrive at the harbour of Stromness about the first of June, where they stop for two or three weeks to take aboard men for their settlements. They engage usually from 60 to 100 men, natives of this country, to go to these settlements, every year. They have about 400 or 500 men in these settlements, of whom it is presumed three-fourths are Orkness, as they find them more sober and tractable than the Irish, and they engage for lower wages than either the English or Irish. The yearly wages they give is, house-carpenters, from L. 20 to L. 36; blacksmiths, from L. 20 to L. 30; sailors, from L. 18 to L. 25; boat-builders, from L. 20 to L. 30;



L. 30; bricklayers or masons, from L. 20 to L. 25; tailors, from L. 10 to L. 15; labourers, from L. 6 to L. 18. The Company raises the wages of these men in proportion to the time they remain in their service, because the longer they are, the better they are acquainted with the business, and consequently more useful.

The Company's ships usually return to the harbour of Stromness about November, to land those men who choose to return home. The returns to the Company by these ships, from all their settlements, is usually from 80,000 to 100,000 beaver skins, or other furs equal in value to this number of beaver; for all other furs are computed by their relative value to the beaver, as are also the goods sent out from Britain; and consequently the Company's accounts with their factors in these settlements are kept in beaver, as ours are in pounds Sterling.

It has been said by a great writer, (Abbé Raynal), that the murmurs of the nation have been excited against this Company, both on account of their monopoly, and also on account of the great profits they make; which might indeed have been great some time ago, when their trade was more extensive, and not checked by the interference of the Canadian traders, and when the expence of supporting their extensive settlements was less: but, of late years, it is asserted, that they do not divide above 6 or 8 *per cent.* which is no more than the East India Company, and other trading companies in Britain, have divided.

If the murmurs of the nation have been excited, because of the monopoly which this Company enjoys; so also, of late years, there have been great complaints in this country, both on account of the small wages given to the labourers, and the great number of them engaged, while the farmers are left without servants. The constant drain of men from this country to the Greenland and Iceland fisheries,



eries, the coal-trade, and his Majesty's navy, together with 250 sentibles raised, has tended to foster these complaints, which are principally directed against the Hudson's Bay Company, because they make a yearly demand, and at once, and therefore the more perceptible. We cannot complain that our men are called away to fight our wars; this we can only regret, and that the situation of things makes it necessary, occasioned by the turbulence of a neighbouring nation.

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Tot bella per orbem  
 Tam multe scelerum facies; non ullus aratio  
 Dignus honos; squallent abductis arva coloniis,  
 Et curvæ rigidum falces constantur in enses\*.

In time past, when there was not such a demand for men from other quarters, the number necessary for Hudson's Bay might well have been spared from this country; and although it is no doubt better for a country to keep its natives at home, provided they can be usefully employed, either in agriculture or manufactures, yet where there are not manufactures, or improvements in agriculture, thus to employ them, it is then better to hire them to those who can usefully employ them; and also better, that they go to hunt the harmless and civilized beaver, than, like the Swiss, to fight the wars of other nations for hire. As to these men being idle and useless to their own country when they return, it may be observed, that several of them are perhaps so before they go there, and that this is what often induces them to go.

Notwithstanding that those who are against this emigration, represent to those who go, 1<sup>st</sup>, The dangers to be encountered from mountains of ice in going there; 2<sup>dly</sup>, The severity

\* Virg. Georg. lib. i. lin. 505.



severity of the climate, and the danger of being frost bit ; 3dly, The hazard of being cut off by the Indians ; yet all this does not deter them from going. But even allowing that all these dangers are exaggerated, as they perhaps are, since few are frost bit except through their own inattention, or cut off by the Indians except when it is occasioned by their own imprudence ; yet still their solitary situation there, might seem of itself sufficient to weigh against all the pecuniary advantages they can hope to reap in the Company's service ; since they are cut off from family and friends, and from all social intercourse but with the natives, where

—————" immersed in furs

" Lie the gross race. Nor sprightly jest nor song,

" Nor tenderness, they know ; nor aught of life,

" Beyond the kindred bears that stalk without \*"

Notwithstanding this, too, yet from a restlessness of disposition, a desire of change, and small as the wages are, yet as they are better than the farmers here can afford to give, the Company always procure a sufficient number of men to go to that bleak climate. For their success in procuring these men, they are perhaps indebted to their agent at the village of Stromness, who is a man well qualified for business, and attentive to the interests of the Company. This agent pays away yearly for the Company from L. 2000 to L. 3000 Sterling, which no doubt greatly tends to quicken the little trade of this place.

Some vessels from Newcastle, Whitby, and Hull, on the whale-fishery, for Straits St Davis and Greenland, stop some days at the harbour of Stromness, on their outward passage,



passage, to engage men.—A list of the number of vessels that have stopped at the harbour of Stromness for four years, is subjoined, as tending to give the justest idea of the importance of this safe harbour. This list is taken from the surveyor's books.

	1789.	1790.	1791.	1792:	Total.
English,	105	72	96	87	360
Scotch, -	214	121	203	214	752
Irish, -	7	13	19	17	56
Dutch, -	2	0	0	0	2
Swedes, -	5	0	5	9	19
Danes, -	9	2	11	5	27
Prussians, -	3	2	1	3	9
Dantzickers,	1	3	4	1	9
Americans,	0	0	1	2	3
In 1789,	-		346		
In 1790,	-		213		
In 1791,	-		340		
In 1792,	-		338		
				Total,	1237

From the above list it appears, that the average number of vessels which pass this way in a year, is  $312\frac{1}{2}$ . Before the peace in 1763, 450 or 500 vessels have passed this way in a year. The reason why the number passing now is not so great as formerly, is, that many now go through Pentland Frith, who formerly used to pass by Stromness, as they have now become better acquainted with that frith. And as a light-house is now erected on the Pentland Skirries in that frith, it may be presumed that still a greater number will pass that way, and a less number by Stromness.



ness. It has been suggested, that for the safety of the trade passing by Stromness, it might be necessary to erect a fort at the entrance of the harbour, since the the French privateers, in time of war, have entered Hoy Sound, and have been within two miles of the harbour. But from the above list it will appear, that the number of vessels passing this way is not so great as has been supposed. A frigate stationed here, it is probable, would be of more essential service, both in defending the harbour, and in scouring the coast.

*Shipping built at, and belonging to Stromness.*—Several small vessels, from 30 to 90 tons, have been built here. There are at present (1794) 2 brigs and 4 sloops belonging to the village of Stromness, in all about 500 tons. Two of these sloops are usually employed in the herring-fishing. These vessels go abroad in quest of freights, as the trade of this place cannot give them employment, as will be seen from the following statement of exports and imports.

*Exports and Imports.*—As there is no manufacture here but that of stockings and linen yarn, nor any foreign trade, the exports and imports will appear very inconsiderable, when compared with places of greater trade. In this commercial age a detail of them may be required and read; leaving it at the option of the editor to insert, and of the reader to peruse it. The articles of export and import are subjoined in detail, upon the best information \*.

**Imports**

\* Exports in 1791.

Linen yarn, 8500 spindles, at 2 s. 3 d. the spindle,	L. 956	5	0
Beef (salted), 240 barrels, at L. 1, 10 s. the barrel,	360	0	0
Hides (salted), 390, at 28 lb. each, is 10,920 lb. at 4 d. the lb.	182	0	0
Feathers, 4424 lb. at 1 s. 2 d. the lb.	-	-	258 1 4
			<hr/>
	Carried forward,	L. 1756	6 4



Imports in 1792,	-	-	L. 4198	1	0
Exports in 1792,	-	-	2371	15	8
			<hr/>		
Balance of trade against Stromness,			L. 1816	5	4
					In

	Brought forward,	L. 1756	6	4
Rabbit skins, 36,000, at 8 d. each,	-	-	120	0 0
Linen, 2000 yards, at 1 s. each yard,	-	-	200	0 0
Stockings, 1440 pair, from 1 s. to 5 s. the pair, say at an average 1 s. 6 d. the pair,	-	-	108	0 0
Calf-skins, 1200, at 1 s. each,	-	-	60	0 0
Fish, 1000 ling, at 1 s. each,	-	-	50	0 0
Butter (grease), 12 barrels, at L. 3, 2 s. the barrel,	-	-	39	12 0
Pork (salted), 16 barrels, at L. 1, 15 s. the barrel,	-	-	18	0 0
Pens, 100,000, at 5 s. 6 d. the thousand,	-	-	27	10 0
Tallow, 12 cwt. at L. 2, 2 s. the cwt.	-	-	25	4 0
Pork hams, 160, at 2 s. each,	-	-	16	0 0
Geese (salted), 10 barrels, at L. 1 : 13 : 4 the barrel,			16	13 4
Geese (smoked), 240, at 1 s. each,	-	-	12	0 0
Neats tongues, 240, at 8 d. each,	-	-	8	0 0
Seal skins, 36, at 2 s. 6 d. each,	-	-	4	10 0
<hr/>				
Total exports,	-	-	L. 2371	15 8

*N. B.* No kelp is stated, because it is not annually made; and when burnt, the greater part belongs to heritors not resident here.

#### Imports in 1792.

Bale goods, cloths, muslins, &c. from Glasgow,	-	L. 1000	0	0
Groceries, and fundry small merchandife,	-	600	0	0
Tow, 600 matts, at 15 s. the matt,	-	450	0	0
Flax, 6 tons, at L. 37 the ton,	-	222	0	0
Wool, 516 stones, at 12 s. the stone,	-	309	12	0
Timber and staves,	-	150	0	0
Leather, 2100 lb. at 1 s. 6 d. the lb.	-	157	10	0
Salt, 170 barrels, at 12 s. the barrel,	-	102	0	0
Meal, 200 bolls, at 12 s. the boll,	-	120	0	0
Tea, 10 boxes of 86 lb. each, is 860 lb. at 3 s. 2 d. the lb.	-	136	3	4
Sugar refined, 10 cwt. at L. 6 the cwt.	-	60	0	0

Carried forward, L. 3307 5 4



In bad seasons, when the crop fails, the balance of trade will be much more against this place, as there has been grain imported to the amount of from L. 500 to L. 1500 in such years.

The sources from whence this deficiency is made up are these; remittances from seamen in his Majesty's navy; freights of vessels belonging to this place in the carrying trade

	Brought forward,	L.	3307	5	4
Sugar unrefined, 10 cwt. at L. 4, 4 s. the cwt.	-		42	0	0
Snuff, 6 cwt. at L. 12 the cwt.	-		72	0	0
Hops, 15 cwt. at L. 5 the cwt.	-		75	0	0
Soap, 50 cwt. at L. 2, 13 s. the cwt.	-		132	10	0
Bark for tanning, 10 ton, at L. 6 the ton,	-		60	0	40
Whisky, 6 hhds. at L. 9 the hhd.	-		54	0	0
Wine bottles, 40 dozen, at L. 1 the dozen,	-		40	0	0
Biscuit, 64 cwt. at 15 s. the cwt.	-		48	0	0
Porter, 12 hhds. at L. 2, 17 s. the hhd.	-		34	4	0
Hats, 100, from 2 s. to 15 s. each, say 7 s. each,	-		35	0	0
Molasses, 20 cwt. at L. 1, 8 s. the cwt.	-		28	0	0
Crown and crystal glass and bottles,	-		24	4	0
Tar, 24 barrels, at 15 s. the barrel,	-		18	0	0
Paper, 30 reams, at 10 s. the ream,	-		15	0	0
Coals, 30 tons, at 10 s. the ton,	-		15	0	0
Flour, 20 cwt. at 16 s. the cwt.	-		16	0	0
Barley, 20 cwt. at 11 s. the cwt.	-		11	0	0
Pots, 20 cwt. at 14 s. the cwt.	-		14	0	0
Iron, 24 cwt. at L. 16 the ton,	-		19	4	0
Nails, 10 cwt. at L. 1, 12 s. the cwt.	-		16	0	0
Cards for wool and tow, 24 doz. at 15 s. the doz.	-		18	0	0
Hemp dressed, 500 lb. at 7 d. the lb.	-		14	11	8
Earthen ware, 12 crates, at L. 1 the crate,	-		12	0	0
Cart-wheels, 6 pair, at L. 2, 2 s. the pair,	-		12	12	0
Tobacco, 1 cwt.	-		11	0	0
Powder and shot, 6 cwt. of both,	-		13	10	0
Fishing lines, and sundry other small articles,	-		40	0	0
Total imports,	-		L. 4198	1	0



trade abroad; money received from shipping for fresh provisions, or spent by seamen in the public inns; remittances from those in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company. These sources are more than sufficient to balance the amount of imports, as appears evident, since the style of living has been greatly increasing for some years past; new houses have been built every year; the trading people have purchased lands when they came into the market for sale; and there have been only two or three bankruptcies among them for 30 years past; and prior to that period, they were still more rare, and almost unheard of; so that, if what great writer (Lord Kames) observes be true, that the number of bankruptcies prove the increase of trade, then the trade of this village has been, and still is low.

As the whole exports and imports amount only to L. 6569 : 16 : 8, if we were to suppose a nett profit on the whole of 20 *per cent.* this would only be L. 1313 : 19 : 3, which, if divided among 26 shopkeepers, would be L. 50, 10 s. 8½ d. to each. This would appear a sum small enough for the support of a family; nevertheless, by œconomy and strict attention to their affairs, the greater part of them increase their capitals, build houses, purchase lands, and in a course of 30 years, are in circumstances to retire from business, having realised L. 1000 or L. 2000, upon the interest, or returns of which, they live comfortably, and with which they are as well satisfied, as the great merchants in more opulent places when they have acquired a plumb of L. 100,000.

————— Multa petentibus

Defunt multa. Bene est, cui Deus obtulit

Parca, quod satis est, manu \*.

*Retailers*

\* Hœr. lib. 3. ode 15.



*Retailers of Ale and Spirits.*—As the excise of this county is compounded, many of the farmers brew ale for sale during winter, so that the number of occasional retailers cannot be precisely ascertained; and although a great deal of grain is consumed in this way, and there are complaints against it, yet it may be presumed, that it is neither so pernicious to the health, the morals, or the circumstances of the people as drinking spirits, which prevails in other countries among the lower classes, and at all seasons of the year; whereas this practice of brewing ale prevails among the farmers here only during winter, or the first of spring. Nor is it here the sottish enjoyment of drinking alone; they often have music and dancing at these meetings;

———— and, shook to notes  
Of native music, the respondent dance.  
Thus jocund fleets with them the winter night\*.

The regular and constant retailers of ale and spirits are: Retailers of ale, 13 in the village of Stromness; retailers of spirits, 3 in Sandwich parish, 3 in Stromness parish, and 7 in the village of Stromness.

*Church, Patron, Stipend.*—There is a church in each of these parishes. The parish church of Stromness formerly stood a mile distant from where the village is situated; at present, the parish-church stands in the village of Stromness, and the old parish-church is ruinous. The present church was built in 1717, and is not large enough to accommodate the people of the parish and village, as the inhabitants of the village have increased greatly since that time. The church of Sandwich was rebuilt in 1670, by Andrew Honyman, Bishop of Orkney; and again rebuilt in

\* Thomson's Seasons, Winter, line 331.



in 1767. It was dedicated to St Peter, as was also the old parish-church of Stromness, now ruinous. The minister preaches at each of the two parish-churches alternately.

The right of presentation, formerly in the bishop, passed to the Crown, upon the abolition of Episcopacy, along with the bishoprick lands; and is now vested in, and exercised by the Right Honourable Lord Dundas of Aske, who holds the bishoprick lands in lease from the Exchequer.

The stipend, by decret of the Court of Session in 1753, is 96 meels of malt, L. 15 money, (in lieu of 6 barrels butter), L. 10 money, (in lieu of vicarages), and L. 3, 6s. 8 d. for communion-elements. It is troublesome to collect this stipend, as it is paid by nearly 100 heritors. When it is regularly paid, and malt sells at 10s. *per* meel, it is worth L. 76 : 6 : 8, including the money allowed for communion-elements. The village of Stromness pays no part of stipend, although the population of that village is not far short of that of both the country parishes.

There is a glebe in each of these parishes, and both may be worth about L. 9 Sterling yearly rent. The minister of these parishes formerly resided in the parish of Sandwick until the year 1780, when a new manse was built in the parish of Stromness, about a mile from the village.

*List of Ministers of these Parishes.*—Mr John Nisbet, admitted 1715, died 1746, was 31 years minister; Mr James Tyrie, admitted May 1747, died 1778, was 31 years minister; Mr John Falconer, admitted 1779, died 1792, was 13 years minister; Mr William Clouston, admitted 1794.

*Schools.*—There is no parochial school in either of these parishes. The Society for propagating Christian Knowledge gives L. 8 yearly to a schoolmaster, and L. 3 yearly to a school-mistress, both in the village of Stromness. The  
school-



school-fees are, from 6 d. to 1 s. quarterly, for teaching to read and write; and 1 s. 6 d. or 2 s. for writing and arithmetic. The schools are,

In the village of Stromness, one grammar-school, where Latin is taught. Four schools, where the schoolmasters teach reading, writing, and arithmetic. Three schools, in which school-mistresses teach reading, knitting stockings, and sewing white seam.

In the parish of Sandwich, one school, in which a school-mistress teaches to read.

There are usually from 200 to 350 scholars at all these schools.

*Poor.*—There are about 50 poor persons in the parish and village of Stromness, and 12 poor persons in the parish of Sandwich, to whom the sessions give money twice or thrice a-year. The funds for their support are, from collections received at church on Sabbath, and on occasion of administering the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, dues of pall or mortcloth, and fines; all which, in the parish of Sandwich, may amount yearly to about

L. 4 10 0

Deduct salary to session-clerk and officer,

1 10 0

Remains for support of poor in Sandwich,

L. 3 0 0

The sacrament of the Lords supper is rarely administered at the church of Sandwich, by reason of its great distance from the place of the minister's present residence, and, by consequence, the collections at sacramental occasions add to the funds for supporting the poor in the village and parish of Stromness, which for 3 years were,

La



	In 1787.			In 1788.			In 1789.		
	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
Sunday's collections,	5	16	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	6	16	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	13	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sacrament. collect.	4	10	0	4	13	6	4	19	1
Mortcloth dues,	1	9	6	2	10	0	2	1	0
Fines, -	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
Total, -	12	15	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	13	19	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	30	13	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total funds for three years,				-			L. 47	8	7
Yearly average is,				-			15	16	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Deduct yearly salary to session-clerk and officer,							4	10	0
Remains to be divided among the poor yearly,				-			L. 11	6	2 $\frac{1}{4}$

*Fuel.*—As there are no peat-mosses in the parish of Sandwick, the inhabitants of that parish bring their peats from the mosses of the neighbouring parish of Harray, distant 5 or 6 miles. This employs them and their horses the greater part of the summer, when, otherwise, they might be employed in cleaning their lands, and preparing manure, so that this distance from fuel is consequently a great bar to improvement, either in the way of inclosing, fallowing, or raising green crops. The small mosses in the parish of Stromness at present supply the parish; but it is probable that, in 30 or 40 years hence, these mosses will either be exhausted, or covered with water, so as to be inaccessible. The inhabitants of the village of Stromness cut part of their peats in the parish-mosses; but the greater part of this village is supplied with peats brought by sea from other parishes, the distance of 5 or 6 miles. The duty being now taken off coals, the inhabitants of this village will probably use peats for their kitchen-fires, and coals for other fires.

*Roads.*



*Roads.*—There are no made roads through these parishes but one of two miles in length, which leads from the village of Stromness towards the road that leads to the borough of Kirkwall. The roads through the parish of Sandwick are naturally good, as the ground is dry. The roads through the parish of Stromness are, for the most part, bad in winter, as the grounds are wet. In one or two places the roads are scarcely passable on horseback; and although the inhabitants of two or three parishes must pass by these bad roads, in carrying the produce of their farms to sale at the village of Stromness, yet it has never been attempted to make these roads better; although this might be done at no great expence of labour.

*Bridges.*—There is only one bridge, and that in the parish of Stromness, at the entrance to the loch of Stenness, where it communicates with the sea. This bridge may be about 100 or 150 yards; it has no arches, but instead of these, logs of wood are laid across 3 or 4 openings, through which the sea passes. It is thought by some, that if the ground was cleared, a salmon-fishery might be here established.

*Millstones.*—There is a millstone quarry on the west coast of the parish of Sandwick, out of which about 10 millstones are wrought annually, at the price of 2 s. for each inch that the stone is thick in the eye. From this quarry most of the mills in the county are supplied.

*Slates.*—There is a slate-quarry in the south-west extremity of the parish of Stromness, from which from 30,000 to 40,000 slates are annually sold. They are strong, thick, and large, last long, and are the best in this county. They might be wrought in greater quantity were labourers to be got.



got. They are better adapted to this climate than Easdale slates; and yet, because these last have a preferable appearance, they are more used at the village of Stromness, notwithstanding that the parish slates are cheaper, can be brought by water, and consequently not dear in carriage.

*Limestone.*—There is plenty of limestone in these parishes, but through the scarcity of fuel wherewith to burn it, and of hands whereby to work it, there is no lime made in the parish of Stromness, and but an inconsiderable quantity in the parish of Sandwick, by the principal heritor there.

*Freestone.*—Freestone has been lately found in the parish of Sandwick, but it is hard, and not of good quality.

*Minerals.*—There are appearances of lead and iron ore in the parish of Stromness. The lead-ore in the clefts of the rocks has the appearance of melted lead. In 1755, miners from England wrought the lead-mines, and sent away a considerable quantity of the ore; but, either the ore was not rich enough to repay the expences, or the vein was small and soon exhausted, or the work was unskilfully carried on, and too expensively managed; for one or other of these reasons it was abandoned. A few years afterwards the attempt was again made to open the lead-mines in another part of this parish, which also failed.

*Mineral Springs.*—There are some mineral springs in these parishes. There is one in the vicinity of the village of Stromness, which has been tried for scorbutic complaints, and has sometimes proved successful.

*Birds.*—The birds, both domestic and migratory, are such as are common to other parts of this county. About 80  
years



years ago, moorfowl frequented some of the hills, and were shot within a mile of the village of Stromness; but now there is no heath there, nor are moorfowl to be found in either of these parishes.

*Plants.*—There are no plants here but such as are common in this county, and have been repeatedly described. The scurvy-grass abounds in many places, and grows on the roofs, and along the walls of old houses in the village of Stromness. Small black, or whortle berries, probably similar to the *vaccinia nigra* of Virgil, but of inferior quality, were formerly found on the hills in the vicinity of the village of Stromness; but none grow there now, and they are rarely to be met with on any of the hills of these parishes.

*Molucca Beans.*—These have sometimes, but rarely, been found along the sea-coasts of these parishes.

*Clalk Geese, Barnacles.*—These have been found sticking to pieces of timber, as described by Wallace in his description of Orkney, and also by Sir Robert Sibbald, in his Natural History of Scotland, book 3. part 2. chap. 12. under the article *Concha Anatifera*. A late author asserts, that the barnacles lay their eggs, and leaving them at the mercy of the waves, they stick to what they happen to meet with, rotten timber, or maritime plants, and so are hatched.

*Figured Stones.*—On the west side of Sandwick parish, along the craggy cliffs, are found, horizontally laid, causeways, or stratum of figured stones, of various irregular figures, the work of nature, and the effect of time; but none of these figured stones bear any resemblance to birds



or fishes. Near to these figured stones, there is, in a chasm, in these craggy cliffs, a figure bearing a resemblance to a bishop dressed in his Episcopal robes \*.

On the east side of the parish of Sandwick, near the confines of the parish of Stenness, are to be seen the beds, from whence it is supposed the large standing stones, which compose the druidical temple erected in that parish, have been taken. This bed, from whence these stones have been taken, is about a mile and a half distant from the place where these stones are erected. They must have had, in ancient times, some method of moving large bodies, that has not probably been handed down to us.

*Antiquities.*—There is in the parish of Stromness, contiguous to where the church of that parish formerly stood, a spot of ground of about half an acre, which bears the name of the Monker-house, (monks house), which has probably been the seat of some religious house in the times of Popery. On the west coast of the parish of Sandwick, close by the sea-shore, is to be seen the ruins or remains of a large building, which yet bears the name of the Castle of Snufgar.

*Tumuli.*—There are several tumuli, barrows, or burying-places, in these parishes. One of these, containing three stone chests, was opened in the parish of Sandwick, by Sir Joseph Banks, in presence of Dr Solander, Dr Van Troil, and Dr Lind, on their return from Iceland in 1772. In one of these chests or coffins was found a human skeleton, lying on its side, with the knees bent; in the hollow of which was found a bag, which appeared to be made of rushes, and contained a parcel of bones bruised small, and also

\* See a particular account of these figured stones in the 1st volume of the Transactions of the Antiquarian Society of Edinburgh.



No some human teeth. It was supposed by Sir Joseph Banks and Dr Solander, that this bag contained the remains or ashes of his wife, or of some near relation, after burning.

In the second of these chests was found a skeleton in a sitting posture, as if seated on the ground, and the legs stretched out horizontally. To keep the body erect, stones were built up opposite to the breast, as high as the crown of the head. The whole was covered with a large stone.

In the third chest was found, in one end, the bones of a human body thrown together promiscuously; in the other end, a quantity of chestnut-coloured hair, covered with a turf, and under the hair about four dozen of beads flattened on the sides, lying as if on a string; about the middle of which was a locket of bone, and underneath the beads a parcel of bruised bones, like to those found in the bag in the first chest. When the hair was first touched it appeared rotten, and the beads friable; but when exposed to the air, the hair was found to be strong, and the beads hard. The beads were black, but it could not be discovered what they were composed of.

Several other tumuli have been opened, which had much the same appearance. In some of these tumuli were found stone-chests of about 15 or 18 inches square, in which chests were deposited urns containing ashes; in others of these chests were found ashes and fragments of bones, without urns.

In digging for stones, in one of these tumuli was found an urn shaped like a jar, and of a size sufficient to contain 30 Scotch pints. It contained ashes and fragments of bones. The colour on the outside was that of burnt cork, and on the inside grey. The country man who found it, left it exposed to the air for a night, with a view to have taken it up whole next day; but one of his neighbours hearing



hearing of it, and supposing that it contained some money, went to the place clandestinely on the night, and broke it. Some of its fragments were sent to Sir Joseph Banks, who could not discover whether it was made of stone, or some other compound matter.

These tumuli were probably raised before the introduction of Christianity into these islands, and by consequence at least twelve or thirteen centuries ago, or more, if what historians tell us be true, that Servanus, (St Serf), preceptor to the famous Kentigern, was Bishop of Orkney about the year 560; and it is to be presumed, that Christianity was preached here before the regular establishment of bishops: And the inhabitants of these islands having received Christianity, continued, in so far as we know, to be steadily attached to it, and therefore would probably then relinquish their former method of burial; and as a proof of their attachment to Christianity at a later period, they sent, in 1071, one of their clergy to the Archbishop of York, who then possessed a jurisdiction over the Church of Scotland, desiring that he would constitute that clergyman to be their bishop.

*Chapels.*—The remains of several old ruinous chapels are to be found in these parishes, but there are no particular traditions concerning them.

*Superstitious Observances.*—In a part of the parish of Sandwick, every family that has a herd of swine, kills a sow on the 17th day of December, and thence it is called Sow-day. There is no tradition as to the origin of this practice,

In the same place, the people do no work on the 3d day of March, in commemoration of the day on which the church of Sandwick was consecrated; and as the church

was



was dedicated to St Peter, they also abstain from working for themselves on St Peter's day; (29th June), but they will work to another person who employs them.

*Eminent Men.*—These parishes have produced no men eminent in literature, arts, or arms, nor have any resided here distinguished for rank, unless George Graham, the last Bishop of Orkney, who had a country seat in each of these parishes.—Several young men have gone abroad in the seafaring and mercantile line, who have risen to opulence, and it is to these lines that their genius and opportunities lead them. As the village of Stromness cannot be considered as of more than a century's standing, there has not as yet, perhaps, been time enough to prove whether the genius of the people of this village may lead them to excel in literature, and the higher attainments of science; and they are, perhaps, as useful to themselves and their country, in the professions they at present pursue, as they would be in these.

*Treatment of shipwrecked People.*—Those that have the misfortune to be shipwrecked on the coasts of these parishes usually receive all necessary assistance. The charge made for such assistance has indeed been scrupled, and consequently often settled by the Vice-Admiral Depute. In 1771, a sloop laden with geneva and lintseed, was wrecked close by the parish-church of Sandwich; and, as no other secure place could be had so near, the minister of these parishes, (Mr James Tyrie), from a principle of humanity, and hearkening to the dictates of benevolence, rather than to prudence and a strict regard to the duties of his station, consented, along with the heritors, that the cargo should be lodged in the church, until it could be conveniently removed



moved to a place of safety. In 1788 a ship laden with deals was wrecked at the same place. The cargo was saved by the assistance of the people of that parish, but the Captain, or owners, either refused or delayed to pay the salvage as previously agreed upon. This delay in payment occasioned the plunder of the cargo of a small sloop, wrecked in the same place in 1790. The people, disappointed of their just expectations of the salvage due them for the former wreck, would not work to save the cargo of this sloop, nor was there any person of sufficient influence in the parish to direct them. The Captain took little concern in the matter, and the Vice-Admiral Depute was distant 15 miles. As the mob often are influenced by passion and resentment rather than by justice and reason, they thought this was a proper opportunity for repaying themselves of the salvage due them for the former wreck, as if all vessels were the property of one man, not considering, that in thus doing what they thought an act of justice to themselves, they were doing injustice to the proprietors of the cargo. Others thought, that as no person appeared to direct them to save the cargo, there would be no injustice in taking away what, in a few hours, would be lost in the sea, and consequently of no value to any person. The cargo was consequently plundered, and several persons were criminally tried before the Justiciary Court, but none were condemned; all were acquitted. This is the only instance wherein any person belonging to these parishes has been criminally tried.—The shipwrecks on the coasts of these parishes are not many, as may be seen by the following list for the period of 33 years last past.



	Tonnage.	Supposed Value.
In 1761, Capt. Watt, from America, with flax*, &c. -	230	L. 4000 0 0
In 1772, Capt. Shaw, from England, with timber*, &c. -	1000	5000 0 0
In 1771, Capt. Bell, of Scotland, with geneva*, &c. -	60	5000 0 0
In 1776, Capt. Sands, of Scotland, with slates*, -	100	600 0 0
In 1778, Capt. Johnston, of Scotland, with kelp, - -	40	300 0 0
In 1787, Capt. Weathead, from Hamburgh, with oil*, &c. -	400	3000 0 0
In 1788, Capt. Newton, from England, with deals*, -	200	1000 0 0
In 1790, Capt. ——— of Scotland, with slates, -	80	600 0 0
In 1790, Capt. Budge, of Scotland, with flax, &c. -	30	500 0 0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total tonnage and value,	2160	L. 20,000 0 0

*N. B.*—The cargoes of those marked thus \* were saved.

*Character.*—The people are industrious, and attentive to their interest, and this last is a leading feature in their character. They may still be considered as economical, although in this they are far short of the last age. Among a body of 3000 people, it may be presumed that there are some of vicious character and depraved manners; but, in general, they are decent in their behaviour, respectful to their superiors, and modest in their carriage and conversation, especially the women. In a sea-port such as Stromness,



ness, to which there is a great resort of shipping, it might be conjectured, that immoralities and a depravity of manners might prevail; but it is to be observed to their honour, that there has been only one bastard child to a stranger for 10 years past.—They are regular in attending divine service, and are neither enthusiastic nor superstitious in their religious principles: *Religentem, non religiosum debet esse*, may apply to the greater part. There are no sectaries here; all are of the Established Church.—They are fond of dress, the most venial of all modern luxuries; but their regard to their interest keeps them from excess in this. They live pretty close and quietly at home. Their habits of life leading them to affairs of interest, there are few inclined to reading, and their genius is not turned to poetry. They are fond of music and dancing, and a dancing-master is sure to meet with encouragement at the village of Stromness. They excel in the knowledge of sea-affairs and what respects shipping, and their genius seems to be turned this way.—Some were formerly litigious, and inclined to enter into law-suits; but these having hurt their circumstances hereby, this has served to check this spirit in others.—They have no turn to the military line, and there is rarely an instance of any one enlisting as a soldier.—They prefer the rigour of the severe climate of Hudson's Bay, to the idleness and showy appearance of a soldier. Those who make some little fortune in the mercantile line at the village of Stromness, are perhaps envied by others not so industrious; but the people in general, are satisfied with their situation. *Contentus vivere parvo*, is as much known and practised here as in most places.

*Advantages and Disadvantages*—The resort of shipping to the harbour of Stromness, is no doubt an advantage to the farmers, as hereby a readier market is found, and a  
higher



higher price got for beef, butter, poultry, &c. but it does not tend to raise the price of grain, for grain is generally as high, and sometimes higher, in other parts of the country, than it is here; and when the little advantages which the farmer has by the higher price of these small articles, are balanced with the disadvantages he feels from the scarcity of servants, and their increased wages, both occasioned by the frequent opportunities which the young men have of going abroad, it will be found that the farmers advantages are not great; which appears evident from this, that the farmers were in as good circumstances 50 years ago as they are at present.

The inhabitants of the village of Stromness certainly feel the advantages resulting from the resort of shipping, for there are several who leave their mechanic trades and betake themselves to traffic with the shipping, and in a few years raise some little capital, and build houses. By the resort of shipping a readier sale is found for the stockings manufactured here, which is one of the greatest advantages, as it encourages honest industry. The money spent here by seamen, or given for provisions, circulates, and tends to increase the wealth of the place; but it also probably produces these effects: The style and taste for better living is hereby increased, and this taste being once acquired, leads many to go abroad to acquire wealth to gratify it, which occasions a scarcity of hands for the purposes of agriculture.

It might be reckoned among the advantages, that there is plenty of limestone in these parishes; but through the scarcity of hands, and of fuel, it is of no service.—The scarcity of fuel is a great disadvantage, and in a few years, must hurt agriculture, and lessen the value of property.—The badness of the roads in winter is an inconvenience to all who must pass them, but especially to the farmer, either



in carrying grain to the mill, or in delivering his rent.— The payment of the rent mostly in malt is a bar to improvements, because, on small farms, they cannot afford to pay the rent, and also fallow any considerable part of their lands.

*Means by which their Condition might be ameliorated.—*

The condition of the farmers might be ameliorated by these means: 1st, To grant them long leases: 2dly, To repair their houses: 3dly, That the proprietor inclose, at his own expence, one or two acres on each farm: 4thly, That the proprietor supply the farmer with grass-seeds for the first year to sow these two acres, and direct him in the management, and make it a nullity in his lease if he does not keep the like quantity of ground in sown grass, for a certain number of years, until he is sensible of the benefit of it: 5thly, That one-half the rent be converted to money: 6thly, That the roads be made good: 7thly, That the limestone be burnt, since, dear as the fuel is, it may be burnt to advantage.

As there is plenty of water, a tannery might be established near the village of Stromness. Some branch of manufacture might be established, wherein to employ the women to more advantage than knitting stockings.

As the genius of the people is turned to sea-affairs, it would be of great advantage if there were a few men of spirit and enterprize, and possessed of capital sufficient to carry on the herring-fishery, rope-making, sail-making, net-making. As there is a great resort of shipping, there would be a readier sale for some of these articles than at Cromarty, where some of these branches were carried on by the late Mr Ross of that place.



*Comparative View of the State of these Parishes,  
in 1700 and 1794.*

In 1700, there were only 5 houses with slated roofs, and a few scattered huts in the village of Stromness, the rent of all which might be about L. 30.

In 1794, there are 130 houses with slated roofs, and in all 222 inhabited houses, which might rent at L. 561.

In 1700, the ground on which to build a house might have been purchased for L. 5.

In 1794, the same ground would cost L. 30 or L. 40.

In 1700, there were only 2 small sloops belonging to this village, of 30 tons each.

In 1794, there are 2 brigs and 4 sloops, in all 500 tons.

In 1700, the whole exports and imports might be L. 400.

In 1792, the whole exports and imports amount to L. 6560.

In 1700, the use of tea was unknown, even in the families of gentlemen of the first landed property.

In 1792, 860 pounds of tea were imported, and tea is drunk by tradesmen and mechanics.

In 1700, gentlemen of landed property, and their families, were clothed in home manufactures.

In 1794, tradesmen and mechanics are clothed, for the most part, in English cloths.

In 1700, the wives and daughters of gentlemen of landed property, spun and manufactured their own wearing apparel.

In 1794, the wives and daughters of tradesmen and mechanics dress in cottons and printed muslins.

In 1700, Orkney cheese, oat-cakes, and ale brewed without hops, were generally presented at christenings.

In 1794, English cheese, white bread, cinnamon waters, and wine, are presented at christenings.

In



In 1700, hops were not used in brewing ale.

In 1792, 15 cwt. hops were imported.

In 1700, a good cow was bought for 8 s. or 10 s.

In 1794, a good cow sells for L. 2.

In 1700, the wages of a maid-servant was 5 s. a-year.

In 1794, the wages of a maid-servant is 15 s. or L. 1 a-year.

In 1700, no dancing-school had ever been in these parishes.

In 1793, a dancing-master opened a school, obtained 40 or 50 scholars, and drew L. 50 in four months.

NUM.



NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF DEER,

(COUNTY, SYNOD, AND PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN.)

By Mr GEORGE CRUDEN, Schoolmaster of Deer.

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*Name, &c.*

**I**N the records of the presbytery, the name of this parish is variously spelled *Dears*, *Diers*, *Dier*, and *Deer*. The last now prevails; and the word is said to be of Gaelic origin. *De a'r'*, contracted for *De adbra*, signifies, *The worship of God*, and may have been applied to this place, because here probably the first church in this corner was erected. Deer is the mother-church of the presbytery.

The parish of Fetter-Angus, which is a detached portion of the county of Banff, and lies along the north-east side of Deer, was annexed to this parish in the year 1618. Before that period, the cure of the former was served by the minister of St Fergus. The foundation of the church, which, like the parish, has been small, is to be seen, and the church-yard is still used for burial-ground.



*Situation, Extent, &c.*—Deer is situated almost in the centre of the district of Buchan, and is bounded on the N. by the parish of Strichen; on the E. by Lonmay and Longside; on the S. by Cruden and Ellon; and on the W. by Newdeer. From N. to S. its greatest extent is 10 miles; and its mean breadth may be  $5\frac{1}{4}$  miles. The high road from Aberdeen to Fraserburgh cuts it longitudinally, and intersected by the roads from Banff and Old Meldrum to Peterhead. One branch of the river Ugie runs through the middle of the parish; the other branch enters it for a short way on the N. E. These, and the other streams in the parish, turn 13 corn-mills, 3 fulling-mills, 2 lint-mills, and a set of bleaching machinery.

*Surface and Soil.*—There is no hill of any considerable altitude in this parish. Irregular ridges of rising grounds run through it in every direction, forming a multitude of vallies equally irregular. Some of the uplands are covered with heath, and a poor kind of grafs; others are planted with wood; many of them are cultivated; and most of them susceptible of cultivation. The *braes*, and lower parts of the parish, are in general best cultivated, and well adapted either for corn or pasture. An irregular plain of considerable extent, lying round the church and village of Deer, is reckoned one of the best summer scenes in the north.

Dicas adductum propius frondere Tarentum.

HOR.

On the north of this place lie the woods of Pitfour, abounding with beautiful scenery; in the middle of which stands the seat of James Ferguson, Esq; present Member of Parliament for the county.

The soil is generally light, upon a gravelly, clayey, or rocky bottom, abounding with small stones.

State



*State of Property.*—This parish contains 120 old *ploughs* of land. In former times one tenant possessed a *plough*, and had always under him several *cottars*, or subtenants, who held of no other superior, and were bound to personal service for part of the rents of their crofts. There are still subtenants on the larger farms. The generality of tenants, however, hold immediately of the heritor; and the practice of dividing the *ploughs*, which is very general here, accommodates the farms to the circumstances of the lowest class of people, and holds out to them a more independent, though seldom a less laborious way of life than the subtenants enjoy. There are at present about 350 tenants in the parish. Nineteen years is the most common term of a lease.

*Farming, &c.*—The old system of husbandry prevailed universally in this place till about 40 years ago, when the introduction of lime gave it a new turn. Watering began to be used here about the same time with apparent success; but experience at last shewed it to be unfit for this soil. Water, however, has been applied in this country in general only for raising crops of corn; and, perhaps, if watered meadows were laid out in the accurate manner in which they have been done in Wiltshire, and other counties in the south of England, they may be, allowing for the difference of climate, nearly equally beneficial here. Soon after water began to be used as a manure, the sowing of turnip and grass-seeds was introduced into the parish, and since this was generally practised, agriculture has undergone little alteration. Lime is always the first step in improvement, and the farm is afterwards managed by white and green crops and pasture. Some persons have established a regular rotation of crops on their farms; but this is very far from being the general practice. The shortness



ness of the leases is particularly an obstacle to systematic farming. The best rotations established here, though not the best to be wished, are on *infield*, or strong land, 1st year, oats; 2d, bear; 3d, oats; 4th, dunged and turnip; 5th, bear; 6th, hay; 7th, 8th, 9th, pasture: On *outfield*, 1st and 2d, oats; 3d, dunged and turnip, or pease; 4th, bear or oats; 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, pasture \*.

The latest improvements in the farming line which have taken place here, are the revival of work-oxen, two-horse ploughs, winnowing machines in mills and barns, different species of early oats, particularly Magbiehill oats, and brick pavement in corn-kilns. Four or six oxen are used in a plough, yoked with collars. Brick pavement for kilns deserves the attention of every farmer. A kiln, 9 feet in diameter, costs L. 3 Sterling, and will dry 8 or 10 bolls a-day.

The rent of land in this parish is as follows: *Infield*, from 10s. to L. 1 per acre; *outfield*, from 2 s. 6 d. to 12 s.; meadow,

\* The following rotations, the most proper for this district, are extracted from some rules, which Mr Ferguson of Pitfour has drawn up for the information of his tenants:

*Where the land requires pasture*, (which is generally the case), the rotations should be,

1<sup>mo</sup>, In light land, or loam, first year, oats; second year, turnip, thoroughly horse and hand-hoed; third year, barley or wheat; fourth year, clover and grass-seeds; and then pasture, as long as it is proper.

2<sup>do</sup>, In strong land, first year, oats; second year, beans, thoroughly horse and hand-hoed; third year, barley or wheat; fourth year, clover and grass-seeds, and then pasture, as long as it is proper.

*In land which is in such order as not to require pasture*, (which is not a common case), the rotations should be,

1<sup>mo</sup>, In light land or loam, first year, oats or wheat; second year, turnip; third year, barley; fourth year, clover.

2<sup>do</sup>, In clay or strong land, first year, wheat; second year, beans; third year, oats or barley; fourth year, clover.



meadow, from 7s. 6d. to 15s.; pasture and hill-ground, from 6d. to 2s. 6d.

Rearing of cattle has, for these ten or twelve years past, been the most lucrative part of the farming business, great numbers having been bought by drovers for the English market. A couple of oxen sells at from L. 10 to L. 20 Sterling. Sufficient attention, however, has not been paid to the breed. The breed of horses has been much improved of late years, by means of itinerant stallions, and their value is generally double that of oxen. The number of black cattle in the parish may be estimated at 3400; the number of horses at 700.

*Produce.*—About 20,000 \* bolls of grain are raised annually in this parish, of which one-fifth may be barley. It is supposed, that 4000 bolls of meal and grain are in ordinary years exported. Oat-meal sells at from 10s. to 16s. per boll of 8 stones Dutch. *Bear-meal* is of one-fourth less value. No less than 3000 bushels of malt, according to the excise-books, are annually made, and as the *bear* of this country is inferior in weight to that of the more southern counties, the price of malt is seldom more than 4s. above the price of oat-meal current at the time. Sixteen hogsheds of lintseed, mostly American, are sown annually in this parish. This is reckoned sufficient for 36 acres; and the produce, on an average, does not much exceed 1000 stones of *scutched* flax. The tenant of one of the lint-mills has, for several years past, received the greatest premium for raising flax of any in the county. Hay is sold at 6d. per stone, equal to 20 lb. Dutch. An acre of turnips, when carried off the field, fetches L. 4 Sterling. Potatoes are universally cultivated, and sell at 5d. or 6d. per peck, of 2 stones Dutch. Cabbages are planted in the

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field

\* The whole culture-rent of the parish, multiplied by the average rate of culture, forms the ground-work of this calculation.



field as well as in the garden, and begin to be used as spring food for the cattle: they are valued at 1 s. *per fall*, or L. 8 *per acre*.

*Thirlage, Multure, and Services.*—Almost all the tenants are bound to grind their corn at a certain mill; a practice attended with many inconveniencies. Why should a miller be on a different footing from any other tradesman?

Multure is generally high in this parish \*. In some mills it is converted, and paid with the rent; and should be so in every case. This, however, is not always practicable, as the rent and multure are often paid to different heritors; to remedy which would require a statute, abolishing thirlage, and empowering every landholder to redeem his estate from this burden. And a statute, which equally respects the good of the heritor and tenant, which would put a stop to an intricate and unreasonable practice obtruded on the present times by the use and wont of darker ages, and which would at once prevent law-suits, misunderstandings, and complaints, certainly merits attention. Services are not universally abolished.

*Manufactures.*—A great deal of flax is given out to spin in this parish for the Aberdeen and Peterhead manufactures. A considerable quantity of linen-yarn, spun from home-

† Multure most commonly is one-sixteenth of the whole grain raised, except what is used for seed, whether milled, fold, or malted. This, with the *hannocks*, *knavebips*, and other nameless mill-tolls, (which are sometimes one-fourth, sometimes one-eighth and one-fourth of the multure, and at some mills almost twice as much as at others), forms a heavy burden on improving tenants; nearly thus:

$$\frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} = \frac{1}{4} = 11 \text{ bolls in } 128.$$

Mr Ferguson, who is a very indulgent master to his tenants, has abolished the multure in all mills belonging to himself, and all customs and services in his property.



home-grown flax, is annually exported to the southern boroughs. In and near the villages of Stewartfield and Deer, 3000 yards of linens, checks, and linsey-woolseys, are every year made for sale. The Aberdeen merchants have been long in the practice of giving out wool to be knitted into stockings. Spinning and knitting form the chief employment of the women; and a very considerable sum of money is brought into the parish yearly from these sources. A woman earns 2 s. or 2 s. 6 d. a-week.

In the year 1783, a bleachfield, and complete set of machinery, were erected by the late Mr Burnett of Dennis, in the neighbourhood of his village of Stewartfield. At present, there are about 350 pieces of cloth, and about 600 spindles of yarn, bleached annually. The Honourable Board of Trustees, a few years ago, gave L. 30 Sterling for erecting a drying-house.

*Minerals.*—This parish abounds with springs of water. On the farm of Mains of Anochie there are no fewer than 52. There are besides a great many chalybeate springs in the parish, some of which are very strongly impregnated, and have been useful in stomachic and gravellish complaints.

There are quarries of limestone of a very good quality, in different parts of the parish; some of which are reckoned inexhaustible. About 13,000 bolls of lime are made annually, which sells at 6 d. or 7 d. *per* boll of 90 Scots pints. 5000 or 6000 bolls of unburnt limestone are likewise sold to farmers, who burn it for themselves, at the rate of L. 1, 5 s. for the *hundred-boll-cairn*, which contains 475 cubical feet. From 60 to 70 hands are employed, but not constantly, in the different parts of the work, who are either paid by the piece, or receive 9 d. *per* day in summer, and 7 d. in winter.



In the south-west side of the parish, there is abundance of that species of quartz called felt-spar, or rhombic quartz, both above and below the surface of the ground. The late Mr Garden of Troup, to whom the estate belonged on which it is found in greatest plenty, sent a specimen of it to a glasshouse in Newcastle, which was approved of, and a considerable quantity was in consequence exported; but the expence of land-carriage, or some other cause, soon put a stop to this branch of commerce \*.

Pieces of crystalized quartz are likewise met with occasionally; the purest in the form of regular hexagonal prisms, pointed at the ends.

A dark blue, and a very white granite, are the stones most used in building.

*Church, Poor, and School.*—A commodious church, sufficient to contain 1400 persons, was built in the year 1789, for L. 700 Sterling. The stipend may be valued at L. 80 Sterling. The glebe measures  $29\frac{1}{2}$  acres nearly; the greatest part of it good land. Mr Basil Anderson is the present incumbent. The crown is patron.

There is a Seceding meeting-house in the parish, and an English Episcopal chapel, where most of the gentry in the parish and neighbourhood attend. There are 29 men and 47 women presently upon the poor's list †, who receive from 6 s. to L. 2 each *per annum*, in small sums quarterly. The weekly

\* Deer is  $20\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant from Peterhead, the nearest sea-port.

† In the year 1763, as appears by a minute of the session, the number of poor on the list was 31, and the yearly collections did not then exceed L. 46, 16 s. Scots, of which L. 28, 4 s. went for clerk and officer's fees. Yet so much was this at that time accounted, that a scheme for maintaining the poor *in their own houses*, by assessments on the heritors and tenants, was unanimously rejected by the session, one principal reason being, that it would reduce the ordinary collections to a *trifle*.



weekly collections amount to no less than L. 40 Sterling a-year; which, with what is collected about the time of the communion, the interest of a bill of L. 45 Sterling, *mort-cloth-money*, forfeited matrimonial pledges, &c. makes about L. 60, which is annually disbursed by the kirk-session. This sum, together with what is distributed by the other congregations, is found adequate for the ordinary necessities of the poor; and when an extraordinary case occurs, intimation is made from the pulpit, and a collection made for the purpose.

The late Mr Burnett of Denns left, by deed of settlement, the lands of Andiswells and Backhill, renting about L. 18 Sterling for the behoof of the indigent and infirm on his own estates in this parish; with this reserve, that if ever poor-rates be established here, the mortification shall cease.

The emoluments of the school and session-clerkship amount to L. 30 *per annum*. The number of scholars, according to the season, varies from 20 to 50, who pay quarterly 2 s. 6 d. for Latin, 2 s. for arithmetic, and 1 s. 6 d. for English. The fees for other branches of education are at the discretion of the teacher.

*Villages and Population.*—There are three villages in this parish, two of which have been built within these 25 years; Fetterangus, by Mr Ferguson of Pitfour, and Stewartfield, by Mr Burnett of Denns; the village of Deer is upon the property of Mr Ruffel of Moncoffer, and is of very long standing. Owing to these, and the splitting of farms, the population of this parish has very much increased. In the year 1750, the number of communicants in the Established Church was 718; for some years past, the number has been little short of 1400. By a correct list, taken in the  
year



year 1788, previous to building the new church, there were found in the parish :

Persons,	-	-	-	3267
Males,	-	-	-	1554
Females,	-	-	-	1713
Of the Church of Scotland,	-	-	-	2305
————— England,	-	-	-	721
————— Rome,	-	-	-	12
Antiburgher Seceders,	-	-	-	229
Heritors,	-	-	-	11
Heritors residing constantly or occasionally,	-	-	-	5
Village of Deer contained,	-	-	-	166
————— Stewartfield,	-	-	-	181
————— Fetterangus,	-	-	-	81
The number of baptisms annually, upon an average of seven years last past, is	-	-	-	75
The number of burials,	-	-	-	55
————— of marriages,	-	-	-	23

The parishioners are in general, a decent, sober, charitable people. Agriculture, the employment of the generality, is favourable to virtue ; public worship, and the ordinances of religion, are attended with a laudable punctuality.

*Diseases, &c.*—No disease has of late years raged here with greater mortality than a putrid sore throat. It chiefly attacked children, sometimes cutting off two, three, and four of a family. Inoculation for the small-pox has been practised here with success. Last year (1792) a surgeon of this place, humanely inoculated *gratis* above 100 children, mostly of the lower class, of which only one died. Many people after all are very much averse to inoculation. Consumptive complaints are not unfrequent among the young ; rheumatism afflicts those of riper years.



It is an uncommon circumstance, and shews that this place is by no means unfavourable to health, that there is just now in the village of Deer a family of five persons, in which there has been neither birth, marriage, burial, nor bedrid person these 50 years ! The mother of this family, who is the oldest person in the parish, thinks herself about her hundredth year. It is equally worthy of observation, that there died last winter a parishioner in the 84th year of his age, who was married two years before to his *seventh* lawful wife !

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In the village of Deer, and in the neighbourhood, there are inns, where travellers of every description can have good accommodation. The following licenses were granted within the parish for the year ending the 10th October 1793, *viz.* 7 ale licenses, 4 spirit licenses, 3 wine licenses, 1 tea license, and 9 tobacco and snuff licenses. Notwithstanding the few tea licenses taken out, that article is used more or less almost in every family. There are at present 26 retail-shops in the parish, 2 saddler's shops, 1 baker, besides all the common tradesmen and mechanics. The invoice of the merchants are from L. 50 to L. 500 Sterling a-year; and their annual profits on stock are about 10 *per cent.*

The peopling of the villages and small farms, a great increase of handicraftsmen, and a demand for hands to the neighbouring manufactures, have occasioned a temporary scarcity of servants in this place, and afforded them an opportunity, not only of raising their wages, but of demanding some other concessions which former times denied them. A man-servant receives about L. 6, a maid-servant from L. 2 to L. 3 *per annum*. Servants are all maintained in the family, and probably in no part of Scotland are they better used.

There



There are 2 four-wheeled chaises and a hearse in the parish.

About 900 acres have been planted in this parish, mostly with Scotch firs at first, and afterwards filled up with a variety of other trees, of which Mr Ferguson's plantations amount to about 650 acres. Pines and larches have in general thriven better than the Scotch fir. Larches, indeed, have succeeded on northerly exposures, where every other kind of wood, which was tried, had failed. Of hard wood, beech, ash, birch, oak, and plane trees, have come to considerable size. Hedge-rows to a great extent have in many places been planted round inclosures, along with stone and turf fences.

There is plenty of game in this parish, as grouse, partridges, woodcocks, snipes, and hares; besides wild pigeons, wild ducks, teals, herns, and occasionally wild geese and swans; there are also hawks, owls, and great numbers of crows, (which are very destructive), and singing birds, as the thrush, blackbird, linnet, goldfinch, &c. Foxes infest this place, together with badgers, otters, polecats, weasels, &c.

The streams here abound with salmon, and excellent trout of different kinds, and angling is a favourite diversion.

Seed-time is from the middle of March to the end of April. Harvest commences about the beginning of September, and commonly lasts six weeks. In the year 1782, the crop in this parish was supposed to fall short about one half of the usual produce. Twelve hundred bolls of *bar-meal* and pease were imported, mostly by residing heritors. The tenants, however, got the better of this stroke by an extraordinary crop in 1784, which, with the rise of cattle, brought this country to a pitch of prosperity, which it probably never before enjoyed.



A canal betwixt this place and Peterhead is practicable on a very moderate expence. Should such a measure ever be put in execution, and long leases with progressive rises of rent be granted, the agriculture and manufactures of this district would be improved, and the population increased to a degree that is at present only conceivable.

Since the duty was taken off coals, the use of them increases here daily ; and to those who are more than a couple of miles distant from moss, they prove as cheap fuel as peat, the procuring of which is a very tedious and expensive work. The time that would be gained by the use of coals for agricultural improvement, is a matter of so great importance, that nothing but want of experience could hinder the farmer a moment from adopting them.

The great quantity of linen-yarn sent out of the parish might be bought up at home, and would afford a good opening for a thread manufactory.

*Antiquities.*—The antiquities of this place are, druidical circles, single monumental pillars, *cairns*, intrenchments, and an abbey.

There were, not many years ago, the remains of upwards of a dozen druidical circles in this parish. One of them, situated on the hill of Parkhouse, not far from the village of Deer, is the most entire. The horizontal stone on the south is 14 feet long, containing about 250 solid feet. At the distance of about 500 yards, on the north-east side of the same hill, were, not long ago, the ruins of a small village, supposed to have been the residence of the druids. A number of little yards were to be seen all around it ; one of which still retains a superior verdure, and serves now to show the spot where the village once stood. It consisted of 50 or 60 mossy huts, from 6 to 12 feet square, irregularly huddled together ; hence it got the



name of *the bowrachs*. The walls were built of stone and clay; the floors were paved with stones. A farmer in the neighbourhood, about 20 years ago, applied the stones, which were all of small size, to erect inclosures. In removing the rubbish, he found a cylindrical stone, like a small mill-stone; probably part of the *quearn*, or hand-mill, anciently used in this country for grinding corn. Two circular huts, containing some ashes, seem to have been corn-kilns.

A *cairn* on the hill of Auchmacher was opened some years ago, and an urn was found in it, having its mouth adorned with a great number of small jet black substances, circular and perforated.

At the foot of the hill of Sapling-brae, upon the north bank of the Ugie, stand the remains of the Abbey of Deer; which was built in the beginning of the 13th century, by William Cumming Earl of Buchan, who brought to it some Cistercian monks, from the abbey of Kinlochs in Moray, in the year 1218. The revenue of this abbey, as appears by the collector's books which are extant, was as follows: Money, L. 572 : 8 : 6; meal\*, 65 chalders 7 bolls 1 firiot 3 pecks; wheat, 14 bolls; bear, 14 chalders 10 bolls. The lands which belonged to it were crested into

2

\* Estimating the victual at 1's 2. 6 d. per boll, (the average of the farm of the county of Aberdeen for 20 years last past), and valuing the money by the quantity of silver contained in a pounds Scots in the middle of the 16th century, the revenues of the Abbey would amount to nearly L. 1200 Sterling; but they in fact amount now to a much greater sum. There is an old rental of the abbey lands in the custody of Mr Ferguson. To form an idea of their extent, it needs only be added, that the spiritual mens lands in the county of Aberdeen amounted to L. 321 : 16 : 8, of which the Abbey of Deer was rated at L. 20 of old extent, (equal to 10 freehold-qualifications), and that the temporal mens lands amounted to L. 1372 of old extent, or nearly four times the valuation of the lands possessed by the clergy.



a temporal lordship in 1587, in favour of Robert Keith, commendatary of Deer, son to William the 6th Earl Marischal. He left no male-issue, and accordingly his estate devolved on George Earl Marischal.

The abbey has been an extensive building, but is now very much in ruins. The work has been very plain; the doors and windows coarsely arched. A semicircular pillar of red freestone, of the Doric order, has been lately discovered, close by the wall, in the inside of the north aisle of the church. Its diameter is 3 feet 8 inches: only 5 feet of the shaft remain. Were more of the rubbish cleared away, it is probable similar pillars might be found in other parts of the building.

NUM.



## NUMBER XXIII.

## PARISH OF LEGERWOOD.

(COUNTY OF BERWICK, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE, AND PRESBYTERY OF LAUDER),

*From Materials communicated by Messrs MURRAY and MIRTLE of this Parish.*

*Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE parish of Legerwood lies in the shire of Berwick, in the presbytery of Lauder, in the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale. It is nearly on the confine between Landerdale and the Lammermuir-hills. Immediately around it are the parishes of Gordon, Earlston, (or Elreslington), Melrose, Lauder, Westruther.—It is an area of about three miles in length by two and a half in breadth, or of nearly eight square miles. It consists of an assemblage of hills, gently rising to a considerable height from the eastern bank of the Leader. Anciently, as we have reason to believe, these hills, and the intermediate glens, and all the circum-  
jacent



jaacent country, were covered thick with wood. The Britons, the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons, the Picts, the Scots, successively possessors of these regions, consumed by degrees the greater part of the woods, in the ravages of war, in opening passages through the country, in fuel and domestic uses, in clearing the ground for cultivation. The marshes and the strata of peat-earth likewise evince, that much of the standing timber was anciently suffered to grow to decay, to fall down, and to moulder away on the ground where it had been produced. Here, as in almost every other part of Scotland, the destruction of the native woods appears to have been succeeded on the hilly grounds by the growth of heath, on the lower and flat tracts by the stagnation of water, and by mosses and water-plants. Such was the general aspect of the lands of this parish, except on some narrow fields around the farm-steads, till it was happily changed by the cultivation of these last 30 or 40 years.

*Soil.*—On the lower declivities of the hills, and in the narrow vales dividing them, the soil is commonly a deep stratum of blackish mould, composed of sand from comminuted fragments of the adjacent rocks, of the exuviae and remains of decayed vegetables, and of oils and salts from the atmosphere and from manures. On the cultivated uplands the stratum of the soil is more shallow, and is of a reddish colour, as containing a larger share of stony matter from the rocks, and a smaller proportion of vegetable mould. The marshes present deep strata of peat-earth, of which the appearance and qualities are sufficiently known. Its composition is evidently, where it is the most perfect, from the remains of decayed ligneous vegetables, with the occasional intermixture of a portion of the remains of gramineous vegetables, and sometimes of a little sand. Sometimes,



times, by the efficacy of its several ingredients, vegetables of all sorts, and even other substances, are long preserved from decay in such beds of peat-earth. Hence are the trunks, not only of oaks, but also of other trees, often found, unconsumed and fresh amidst strata of this earth; and hence the grasses, which often appear in a state of good preservation, in peats of a light, spongy consistency. The chemical constituents of pure peat-earth, are plainly, carbone or pure coal, oils of different sorts, the resinous extract of vegetables, and simple earth. On the dry heathy heights in this parish, the soil is commonly a thin layer of gravel, of peat-earth, or of both together.

*Climate.*—As to climate, the snows and frosts of winter act here sometimes perhaps a little longer, and with somewhat more severity, than in the more southern, lower lying, and more richly cultivated lands of the Merse; by the relative highness of its situation, too, this parish is not a little exposed to the winds and rains of spring and autumn; and where the soil is thin and dry, its vegetation is liable to be parched by the droughts of summer. In the end of April 1795, the progress of the labours of spring was nearly eight days later here than on the low grounds of Mid-Lothian.

*Diseases.*—The diseases with which the inhabitants of this parish are liable to be afflicted are, the epidemical diseases common through the whole kingdom, small-pox, measles, &c. and those other distempers which are usually thought to be produced by excessive toil, and by unseasonable exposure to a cold and humid atmosphere, fever, cough, catarrh, rheumatism, consumption, &c. They are mentioned in this place, because there is believed to be always



an intimate connection between the diseases prevalent in any district, and the nature of its climate.

*Wild Animals.*—The wild animals of this parish are not now numerous. The fox sometimes infests the sheep-pastures. Hares are plentiful. Those little mischievous quadrupeds, which prey upon poultry, have not yet been wholly exterminated. The houses, barns, and barn-yards are not free from mice and rats. Adders, although rare, are sometimes seen basking among the heath, in the warm days of summer. The rivulets afford trouts. The tracts covered with heath, are frequented by muirfowls, and the corn-fields are haunted by partridges. During the long-continued and intense severities of the winter 1794-5, many of these wild animals perished by cold and hunger, and many, in the extreme weakness to which they were reduced, became an easy prey to whoever chose to pursue them. One gentleman had a number of hares taken alive, which he confined in an apartment, and fed plentifully with corn till the snow began to disappear, then generously set them at liberty.

*Number of Inhabitants.*—The number of the inhabitants of this parish has increased, in proportion as its cultivation has been extended and improved. In the year 1755, the population of Legerwood was stated to Dr Webster to amount to 398 souls. It is inhabited at present by 422 persons in all, of both sexes, and of every age and condition.

*Heritors.*—Among these ordinary inhabitants, is only one of the hereditary proprietors of the lands, Major Shillinglaw of Birkhillside. The other heritors, six in number,



the Marquis of Tweeddale, — Kerr, Esq; of Morayston, G. Innes, Esq; of Stow, John Spottiswood, Esq; of Spottiswood, Captain Orde of East Morayston, are non-resident.

*Farmers.*—The whole lands of the parish are divided into 17 farms, large or small, which are occupied by as many different farmers. These farmers, and the hinds, labourers and shepherds in their service, with their respective families, compose almost the whole population.

*Husbandry.*—Husbandry is, then, almost the only mode of industry pursued here. Until within these last 50 years, the farmers of Legerwood were almost exclusively graziers and shepherds. What little tillage they carried on, for the purpose of raising bread-corn for the immediate supply of their own families, was upon a plan of agriculture which has since appeared to have been extremely unskilful. The ground was broken up with a fallow; three successive crops of oats were then raised upon it; after this, it was left for eight or nine years unploughed, that it might, in this period of cessation, recruit its exhausted fertility.

At length, as a more enlightened and industrious agriculture began to advance, with its improvements from the southern districts of Berwickshire, northwards, through the rest of Scotland; the farmers of Legerwood were by degrees convinced, that even as graziers they should be greatly gainers by a more extensive, and a more skilfully conducted tillage. They adopted, one after another, that rotation of crops which still prevails in the parish. The fallow is disused; ley is for the two first years after it has been broken up, sown with oats; on the third year it is manured with dung, and sown with turnip-seed, or with pease, if dung be wanting for manure; yet a fourth year, the same field is ploughed,



ploughed, and the seed is now oats or barley, with grass-seeds. Where the soil is light and thin, only three successive crops are raised upon it; the second of the crops of oats above mentioned being here omitted. After this rotation of crops, the field remains unploughed, till the grasses, of which the seeds were mixed with the last seed of barley or oats, begin to be exterminated from the sward, and the native heath and bog-grasses to be unseasonably renewed.

The manures employed in these processes of agriculture are solely dung, as is above mentioned, and lime, imported from Mid-Lothian. The dung from the stalls of the cattle is carefully accumulated in the farm-yard, and is, in the proper season, conveyed thence to be spread upon the fields under tillage; or the cattle are at times folded in the fields, so as to manure the ground of the fold as they drop their dung, without farther care on the part of the owners, than that of removing the fold occasionally from one situation to another. The distance of the lime kilns of Mid-Lothian would render lime an enormously expensive article of manure to the farmers of Legerwood and its neighbourhood, were it not that grain and other things are usually carried to Dalkeith market, in the carts which return loaded with lime. Fields covered deep with strata of peat-earth are often quickened by the manure of lime to amazing fertility. Where the soil is of sufficient depth, dung often produces an excessive luxuriance of crop, in which the vegetation is wasted in straw and empty ears.

The soil of many parts of these lands does not want strength sufficient for the production of wheat; but a previous fallow would generally be necessary, in consequence of which there would be but one crop obtained in the course of two years; and no one crop of wheat would be equal in value to two crops of oats, barley, or turnips.



Potatoes are cultivated in considerable quantities in this parish, as over the rest of Scotland ; but do not enter invariably into the rotation, and are not in any peculiar degree a favourite article of crop.

Various sorts of seed-oats have been tried here. Blainsley oats and red oats are the two species the most generally sown. Red oats are found to succeed peculiarly well on the soil and in the climate of Legerwood ; yielding, at an average, eight bolls in the hundred of larger increase than any other sort of seed oats ; thickening surprisingly on the field as they grow up, from a thin sowing ; enduring the autumnal winds with comparatively little shaking of the ears ; affording the best straw ; and giving, in meal, half a stone more from the boll of rough corn, than the Blainsley oats yield.

But turnips are, above all others, the favourite article of crop. They are precious, as green food, equally to sheep and black cattle during winter ; the manure and culture necessary to produce a crop of turnips, serve admirably to prepare the field for the cultivation and produce of the ensuing year ; the waste of the turnips that remains unconsumed by the cattle, forms also a rich manure to the ground on which they are scattered.

Horses are the only beasts of draught or burden employed in this parish. All the implements of husbandry, carts, ploughs, harrows, &c. are of the most advantageous construction known in the county. A double plough for turnips, the invention of Mr Paterfon, and formed to be drawn by one or two horses, is also in use here, and is found to afford a very convenient abridgment of labour. Two threshing-machines have been already erected in this parish, and there is a third about to be set up in the present summer (1795), at the first cost of from L. 60 to L. 100 Sterling. But this expence is quickly repaid by the saving of labour, which is obtained from the use of the threshing-machine,



machine. Here are two corn-mills, which are in part supported by the restrictions of thirlage upon the lands of the parish. Happily, modes of mutual accommodation have been generally adopted between the farmers, the millers, and the landholders, which prevent these restrictions from being felt as intolerably grievous. The ploughmen in this parish are eminently dexterous and skilful. Three smiths and two joiners perform that work in wood and iron, which is requisite to repair, from time to time, the implements of farm-labour, &c.

Yet, however skilful and industrious the agriculture of Legerwood, even a stranger might judge, at a first aspect, that the feeding and fattening of sheep and black cattle are the primary objects of the industry of the farmers of this parish.

*Inclosures, Roads, &c.*—No inconsiderable portions of the lands still lie here and there in undrained marshes, or are bleakly covered with their native barren heath. Here is a general want of inclosures; and those which appear are chiefly turf-dikes; for indeed the climate, and the nibbling of the sheep, are unfavourable to the thriving of hedges; and stones, for stone walls of any kind, are extremely scarce. Except in two or three instances, the parish bye-roads are in a very indifferent state. The uplands and slopes are bare of wood, as in those wild scenes into which the improvements and decorations of cultivation have not yet been admitted.

*Animal Stock.*—The horses and other animals maintained on these farms are numerous. An hundred and six horses, old and young, are kept for the saddle or the draught, and to supply the gradual waste. The sheep are no fewer than 3769. The black cattle are at present 559; and here are 59 swine.

The



The sheep are of a breed from Northumberland, valuable alike for mutton and for wool. They are annually smeared with butter and tar, mingled in the proportion of four pounds of butter to one pint of tar. They, equally with the black cattle, feed in winter on hay and turnips; and in summer find their food on the open pastures.

*Gross yearly Produce.*—Upon these lands, with this stock, and by these modes of management and cultivation, the farmers of Legerwood furnish a gross annual produce of

6000 bolls of corn, worth	L. 4500	0	0
Wool, to the value of	-	400	0 0
Sheep sold,	-	1300	0 0
Black cattle,	-	1070	0 0
In their total value,	-	L. 7270	0 0

*Yearly Consumption and Expence.*—Out of this gross value rents are to be paid to the amount of

-	-	L. 1430	0 0
The poor are sustained by an assessment of		30	0 0
The parish roads are repaired and extended by an assessment of	-	25	0 0
The expences of labour, of seed and manure, of the renewal of the animal stock, and of the maintenance of the families of the farmers, cost annually	-	3785	0 0
		L. 5270	0 0
		2000	0 0
		L. 7270	0 0

*Surplus of the yearly Produce.*—Thus, of the gross produce of the lands, there remains, after the deduction of these various *items* of annual expenditure, only the sum of L. 2000 as a compensation for the toil and skilful management of the farmers; as interest upon the value of their unperishing



unperishing stock ; as a gradual repayment of that part of their stock which is sunk in improvements upon the lands ; and as clear profits upon the various bargains of sale and purchase which they transact in the course of the year \*.

This would appear no very considerable return, if we should compare it with the value of the stock and labour by which it is produced ; and again, with the profits which the same quantity of stock and labour would afford in several departments of trade and manufactures. Yet it exhibits, in no unpleasing light, the advantages which attend the prosecution of agriculture, where the husbandman is encouraged by a lease sufficiently long, and reasonable in its terms, to lay out his fortune freely in the cultivation of his farm, and to exert upon it all his industry and ingenuity. For most of the lands in this parish are possessed by the tenants upon long and easy leases, which have given great encouragement to bold and expensive agricultural improvements. By this management, the landholders are perhaps still more highly gainers than their tenants ; because, in the *first* place, rents that are easily made out of the lands, are punctually paid, without deficiency or litigation ; and, in the *second* place, because the value of lands is much more rapidly augmented in these circumstances, than in the case of short leases and racked rents.

*Hinds.*—The circumstances of the country, and the generosity of the farmers, are such as to reward the toil of the hinds, or labourers, in this parish, with a very liberal share of the produce of the lands: Married are almost always preferred to unmarried male-servants, shepherds, or ploughmen. They are settled in snug cottages on the farms to which they for the time respectively belong. In grain,  
money;

\* It is even probable, that many other sums of unascertained expence must be deducted from this sum of L. 2000 before the clear profit only should remain.



money, and other articles for their support or accommodation, they receive an yearly wage, varying with circumstances from L. 15 to L. 20 Sterling. Besides, each hind, possessing a cottage, is, at the same time, obliged to furnish to his landlord and employer, a female-labourer, his wife, daughter, or servant, to work occasionally throughout the year for the hire of 8 d. a-day.

*Markets for Exports.*—Of the grain, pease, wool, oxen and sheep annually produced in this parish, the owners, after reserving those portions which are necessary for the various uses of domestic consumption, sell the rest to dealers, who resort hither to purchase them, or export them for sale to the markets of Dalkeith and Kelso. The wool is commonly purchased by or for woollen-manufacturers from England, Galashiels, or Peterhead. Some sheep of that age at which they are termed *bogs*, and a few black cattle, are occasionally sold into England. But, for grain of all sorts, for oxen, cows, and sheep, Dalkeith is the ordinary and principal market. Formerly here, and in the neighbourhood, were several dealers in meal, who purchasing the corn from the farmers, manufactured it into meal for the markets of Kelso, Lauder, and Dalkeith. At present, the two millers of the parish still continue very properly to deal as meal-mongers; but most of the grain is exported unground.

*Imports.*—As to the requisite imports of coals, lime, grocer's goods, draper's goods, hardware, stationer's goods, &c. these are all obtained from Kelso, Lauder, Dalkeith, and Edinburgh. Kelso affords the best and most convenient market for butchers meat. Lauder is the nearest post-town, but too small a place to serve to any considerable extent as a market. An attempt which is now made to find  
coals



coals on the Earl of Lauderdale's estate, near Blackshiells, if successful, will furnish a considerably nearer market for this article of fuel, than those coal-works immediately around Dalkeith and Edinburgh, from which it is at present procured.

*Houses*.—Here are, at Corbie, at Westmorayston, and at Whitlade, three ancient towers, monuments of that state of the arts and manners of our ancestors; in which, saving ecclesiastical edifices, there were no buildings in this country, but the fortrefs and the cottage; and in which, all the accommodation that was sought in a house, was barely shelter and security. The present dwelling-houses are dispersed over the farms; only, on the farm of Legerwood (proper), is there such an assemblage of houses together, as composes a hamlet, or incipient village. The houses of the farmers are commonly of two stories in height, handsomely and comfortably fitted up within, with a square of office-houses and a kitchen-garden contiguous, and having flocks of poultry feeding round them. The houses of the hinds are dry, snug, and comfortable, affording to these honest labourers better domestic accommodation than the greatest noblemen enjoyed five or six centuries ago, in the strongest and most spacious of those castles, the ruins of which we still admire.

*Manners, &c.*—The inhabitants of this parish appear to be in general healthy, sober, virtuous, industrious, and intelligent. Except about 40 Dissenters, they are all content with the religious instruction to be received in their parish-church; the minister of which enjoys a living of about L. 90 Sterling in yearly value, with a manse and a glebe. The children of the hinds are carefully sent to the parish-school, to learn reading, writing, arithmetic, and the first



first principles of religion ; the parish-schoolmaster enjoying, beside the wages, a salary of L. 11 : 6 : 8 Sterling. The farmers are enabled to give their children all the real advantages of what is usually called a *liberal education*. Most of the articles of dress used here are imported, not manufactured within the parish. Here are two or three tailors, and one weaver.—The language of this parish having, for these last 1200 years, been chiefly Saxon, is at present, with that spoken through all Berwickshire and in Northumberland, more substantially Saxon than the language of any other district in Great Britain. The names of places in this parish are all, or almost all, purely Saxon : As, for instance, *Legerwood*, signifying precisely, *the hollow wood*, or *the hollow place in the wood*, and accurately expressive of the situation of the farm which bears the name, and communicates it to the parish : *Corbie*, quasi *Caer-bee*, *the Castle*, a name compounded from a British and a Saxon word, having both the same signification, so that there was probably a Roman station here, before the Anglo-Saxons came into the island : *Boon*, *the Upper Farm, or Dwelling*, &c.



N U M B E R . XXIV.

PARISH OF TEMPLE,

(COUNTY OF MID-LOTHIAN, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH).

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES GOLDIE, Minister.*

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*Origin of the Name.*

**T**HERE was an establishment for the Templars, or Red Friars, made in this place by King David I. of Scotland; hence the name of the parish.

*Situation.*—Temple lies 11 English miles south from Edinburgh. That part of the parish which is situated in the immediate vicinity of the church, is bounded on the S. and S. W. by the county of Tweeddale; on the W. by the parish of Pennycuik; on the N. W. and N. by the parish of Primrose; on the N. E. and E. by the parish of Borthwick; and on the S. E. by that of Heriot. Its greatest length may be about 9 miles, and its greatest breadth 5. But besides this, there is another part of the parish, lying



four English miles to the eastward, quite detached by a part of the parish of Borthwick, and insulated by the parishes of Borthwick and Newbattle. It consists of about 300 acres of clay soil. I do not know how it became annexed to this parish.

*Climate.*—From the situation the air is cold; the frost sets in early in the season, and continues late in the spring; at other times the air is damp, occasioned by the hills attracting the showers, and the moss retaining the moisture. So much is this the case, that the parish never suffers from want of rain, yet the people are in general healthy.

*Soils.*—The arable part of the infield land consists of light soil, chiefly dry and sharp, upon a gravel bottom; the other parts of the parish consist of land of the same qualities; of mossy land of from three inches to two feet deep of moss, chiefly wet, upon a clay or gravel bottom; and of marshy land, the soil of which is a mixture of clay and sand, upon a bottom of moss, or clay, or gravel.

*Population and Price of Labour.*—The number of souls, from a list taken in 1793, was 593; since that time it has diminished, from the coal not being wrought now upon the lands of Stobs, the property of James Dewar, Esq; of Vorgrie; but there is a prospect of the number being again filled up, from a manufacture being about to be established in the same place. Like other parishes in similar situations, the number of inhabitants has greatly decreased within 40 years. From a list of the examinable persons, or of those upwards of eight years of age, taken in the year 1772, their number amounted to 604; and in the year 1755, according to Dr Webster's statement, their number amounted to 905.



An average of baptisms, marriages, and funerals, taken for 10 years immediately preceding the year 1733, from the session-records. The average of

Baptisms,	in a year,	was	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
Marriages,	—	—	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Funerals,	—	—	33 $\frac{1}{2}$

Preceding the year 1794, the average for 10 years of

Baptisms,	in a year,	was	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Marriages,	—	—	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Funerals,	—	—	16

From this, the decrease of the population is evident. Of the present inhabitants there is but a small proportion Se-  
ceders. The people in general are quiet, and no disturbers  
of the public peace. They are mostly employed in agri-  
culture and pasturage. The shepherds, instead of wages, are  
allowed to pasture a certain number of sheep, along with  
their masters flock. They live comfortably in their way,  
and not unfrequently make a little money, with which they  
are supported in the decline of life, by employing it either  
in buying oats, which, when made into meal, they sell, or  
by using it in some other kind of small traffick. The wa-  
ges of a hind or cottager may amount to (all his advanta-  
ges considered) from L. 10 to L. 16. His wife in harvest  
works for the cottage they live in; and all his family capa-  
ble of work, are obliged to labour, on being paid, for the  
farmer, when he needs them. The wages of a man-ser-  
vant, who eats in his master's house, is from L. 5 to L. 7  
in the year; of a day-labourer, from 1 s. to 1 s. 2 d. *per*  
day; of women, that work at hay or turnip, 6 d. *per* day;  
of tradesmen, from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. *per* day. Women ser-  
vants get from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 2 in the half year; they  
have



have more wages in summer than in winter, from the demand for ewe-milkers, and there being more employment for them in the field at that season.

*Landed Property and Farming.*—The property of this parish is chiefly vested in Dundas of Arncliffe and Hepburn of Clerkington, the valued rent of the two remaining heritors amounting only to L. 439 : 5 : 6 Scots. The valued rent of the whole parish is L. 4399, 10 s. Scots.

A good deal has been done towards inclosing the ground, and in improving the country by plantations of trees. The proprietors have also been at considerable pains and expence to second the natural tendency of the soil to pasturage, and have, with this view, laid out much of their best land in grass-fields, cultivated in a superior style, and which now make great returns. But till of late, the farmers have shown no spirit for improvement. Six years ago, none of them but one raised turnip, and ten years ago none of them but one raised clover and rye-grass. Since these periods, however, considerable progress has been made, as will appear by the subjoined list of cattle fed upon turnip. Much of the land is well adapted to the culture of turnips and potatoes, and for raising crops of hay, and these modes of cultivation will probably become more extensive and perfect, when the roads through the parish shall be made good and easy for conveying the produce of the soil to market. The other crops raised are barley and bear, oats and pease. The barley is raised in the lower part of the parish, and sold to brewers and distillers at the fairs of the county. The bear is raised in the higher part, and sold to the same persons at the 2d or 3d fairs. The oats sown here are the common oats of the country, known by the name of Blanslie oats, and red oats, that answer well in our cold.



cold climate upon strong land only \*. A few Carnwath oats are also sown here, they are about 10 days earlier than the common oats, and produce a greater quantity both of oats and straw upon bad land than either of the other kinds, but are long in the body, and husky. When sown upon good land, they produce an excellent crop of good grain. The oats are either sold in the Dalkeith market, the best grain market in Scotland, or made into meal for the use of the farmer's family. The pease sown are either the late feed, the Peebles and Magbiehill, or Montgomery pease. The last of these is the earliest. The country is indebted for them to the late Mr Montgomery of Magbiehill; they are chiefly made into meal, and used in the same way. The horses are improved in size and strength; the cattle are larger and better formed than formerly; a cow feeds to from 24 to 34 stones, an ox to from 30 to 46. The breed of sheep is the same which has long prevailed in the southern districts of Scotland, viz. the black-faced and grey-faced coarse-woolled sheep. They are much better boned, from fewer being kept upon the same ground than formerly, and weigh, when fed, from 10 lb. to 16 lb. a-quarter. As many sheep are reared in the parish, they are disposed of in the following manner: Some are sold when lambs to the butcher; others when hogs, or of one year old; others as fat ewes; other ewes, when lean, at Martinmas, for feeding or keeping; and a few are sold young wedders, or three years old.

The

\* The red oats have been long in this country, and were formerly known by the name of barley-corn. They were brought from Linton, Peeblesshire, by Mr Dawson, farmer at Frogden, Roxburghshire, and meliorated, by being sown upon his well-cultivated land. They were introduced lately into this country under the title of red oats.



The sheep, cattle, and horses, are nearly as follow :

Stock sheep,	-	6560	Stock of cattle,	331
Sheep grazed and fatted,	1700		Cattle grazed,	375
Sheep fed on turnip,	270		Cattle fed on turnip,	55
		<hr/>		
Total of sheep,	-	8530	Total of cattle,	761
Stock of horses,	-	-	-	92
Horses grazed,	-	-	-	27
				<hr/>
Total of horses,	-	-	-	119

*Poor.*—The poor are supported from the weekly collections at the church-door, from money arising from letting out mortcloths, from a perquisite upon proclamations for marriage, and from the interest and capital of a sum of L. 126 that had been collected when the heritors were resident in the parish. That sum is fast diminishing, there being now no resident heritors, but the smallest, who is a Seceder. Subjoined is a list of the receipts and disbursements in the years 1753 and 1793 :

Receipts in 1753,	-	-	L. 26	2	2½
Disbursements ditto,	-	-	24	16	8½
Receipts in 1793,	-	-	14	13	5½
Disbursements ditto,	-	-	24	2	11

The difference between the receipts and disbursements in 1793 was made up by money taken from the capital in the preceding year. There have been no begging poor in the parish for upwards of 20 years.

*Ecclesiastical Establishment.*—The ecclesiastical establishment of this parish consisted originally of three chapels, one at Temple, one at Clerkington, and one at Morphet. The patronage



patronage of the first belonged to lands the property of Dundas of Arncliffe, and that of the other two to lands the property of Hepburn of Clerkington. From the union of these chapels arose, at an early period, the present parish of Temple; and the right of presentation to it has followed that of the original establishment, Mr Dundas having one *vice* of it, and Mr Hepburn two. The stipend is paid partly in money and partly in grain, and amounts to L. 82, 16 s. 8 d. at the legal rate of converting grain by the Court of Teinds. The glebe is small, and the value of it to the minister is still farther diminished, by the arable part of it being at a distance from the manse, and uninclosed. The manse is an old house, and has lately undergone a partial repair. The church is an old Gothic building, is ill seated, and very cold in winter, from having bad doors, and no cieling.

*Manufactures.*—There has as yet been no manufacture carried on in the parish; but lately a company from England have begun to build a mill for making gun-powder. This is the first erection of the kind in Scotland.



## NUMBER XXV.

## PARISH OF MORBATTLE,

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOT-  
DALE, PRESBYTERY OF KELSO).

*By a Lover of useful Enquiries.*

*Situation, &c.*

**M**ANY places, on both sides the borders of Scotland and England, received their present names from war-like exploits that took place during the unhappy contest, respecting the independence of Scotland, in which the two nations were so long engaged. It is probable, that the name *Morbattle* was given to this parish at that period, although the particular circumstance that gave rise to it is now, perhaps, unknown. The parish is bounded on the N. by Linton; on the E. by Yetholm; on the S. by Hounam; and on the W. by Eckford.

*Rivers.*—The principal rivers or waters in the parish are *Bowmont* and *Kale*, in both of which the salmon and trout  
are



are to be found. The salmon in these, and all the other waters in this district of the county, are not now nearly so plenty as formerly; owing, it is believed, to the cruives, and other machineries placed in the Tweed, a little above Berwick, by which the fish, in their passage up the river, are intercepted and killed.

*Village.*—The only village in the parish is Morbottle. The ground upon which it is built was, not very many years ago, feued out by the Marquis of Tweeddale, for the terms of nineteen times nineteen years, at the rate of L. 5 *per* acre English. The houses, which are mostly of one story high, and covered with thatch, are built and kept in repair by the feuers. About 380 acres, adjoining to the village, were, till of late, occupied in two farms, for which was paid L. 64 of rent annually. These farms, at the expiration of the leases, were parcelled out into small portions, as might best suit the conveniency of the feuers in the village. They are now subdivided into about 26 small pendicles or paffles, for which is paid of yearly rent L. 230. The greatest subdivision pays only L. 22, 10 s. Sterling. The rise of the rent of this land, which was almost altogether *outfield* and hilly, is, perhaps, more than that of any other part of the parish. The ground, instead of being rendered worse by the small occupiers, is much improved. It receives a considerable quantity of manure, and care is taken to cultivate every inch of it, in the best manner possible. Being thus improved, it is extremely serviceable in helping to support many industrious families. This village, when the accumulation of small into large farms took place in the neighbourhood, seasonably afforded a comfortable asylum to several farmers and cottagers, who were forced to abandon the abodes of their forefathers. The inhabitants, who amount to about 200 souls, are active and in-



dustrious. Some of them find employment in working their horses and carts, in agricultural operations; frequently in carrying lime and coals to the farmers in the vicinity; and also in cultivating the small pieces of land they have in lease, without which they could not support their horses and cows. Some of the villagers are day-labourers, whilst others are occupied at their several trades and handicrafts, in the customary work of the country. The leisure hours of these tradesmen are laudably filled up in managing their small pastures, and kail-yards, in which exercises they find a more profitable and healthful amusement, than they could possibly do in frequenting alehouses or barbarous diversions, a practice which too much prevails with many mechanics in some of the great manufacturing districts of Britain. The women are employed chiefly in spinning linen-yarn, and managing their small dairies, principally in making butter and cheese, some little of which is usually carried to market.

The inhabitants, by these means, are happily removed from the direful state of absolute servitude, and from totally depending on the caprice of others. They have a spur to activity and industry, from a view of rendering better their circumstances in life. This excitement, which is one of the strongest principles of human action and felicity, would be still stronger, had they an opportunity of getting in lease more land added to what they already possess, in proportion as they were able to stock and manage it, or were small farms to be got in the neighbourhood. Miserable, indeed, must that class of men be, who are deprived of these, or similar excitements to action. The state and manners of society should every where be so formed, that people in the lowest stations of life may have a foundation on which to build their hopes of advancing their circumstances by frugality and industry. Such a view of their condition has a  
great



great tendency to call forth every active power of the human nature ; to make them combat, with firmness, every opposition that may occur, and, with resolution to overcome the difficulties that lie in the way. Animated with such a prospect, they will early acquire habits of industry : A manly spirit will stimulate the whole of their conduct, and naturally lead them to abhor every unworthy pursuit : Success, in a greater or less degree, will crown their laudable endeavours. A conduct and a result quite the reverse must infallibly characterize those unhappy creatures, whose lot in society precludes them the hopes of ever raising their condition above that of mean servitude. The depression of all that is manly in the soul ; a rooted envy at the prosperity of others, which they can never attain ; a chilling prospect of nothing but insignificance, obscurity and poverty to themselves and their offspring ; and a long train of other evils, are the natural consequences of such a forlorn situation. Persons thus depressed are unavoidably capable, and frequently willing to engage in the most iniquitous, base, and cruel designs. To prevent any class of men from falling into so deplorable a condition, every precaution should be taken by the community. This ought especially to be done with respect to the department of agriculture. Encouragement should be given to the meanest servant of rising in the line of his business till he become a master. And are there not many knowing and wealthy farmers in Britain, who can remember the time when they were employed in the lowest service of husbandry ? This encouragement is indeed held out to mechanics, and to those engaged in most other pursuits of life ; but this can hardly be said to be, at present, the case with respect to farming, in those districts, where large farms are universally adopted. It is not in the nature of things, especially now when the necessaries of life have risen to so high a price,



price, that a common servant can, by his whole income of about L. 15 a-year, maintain his family, and at the same time acquire as much money as is requisite to stock a large farm. He and his offspring, if they do not change their profession, must remain for ever in a state of servitude, poor, helpless, and despised. It is happily otherwise in those places, where there is a proper mixture of great and small farms. It frequently happens that a servant, by a few years industry and economy, with a little assistance from a friend, accumulates a sum that enables him to commence farmer on a small scale. In this new, but more advanced situation, he exerts himself by every lawful means in his power; he is spurred on by a laudable emulation; and, at the expiration of his lease, is generally able to quit the small and enter on a larger farm. Taught by this gradual progress through the various stages of his profession, he directs with skill, he rules with moderation, and he manages with economy. Were the inhabitants, in some places of the island, favoured with such opportunities of rising in the line of their business, it is highly probable that the landed interest would find their profit in diminishing the extent of some of their farms. That it was not alone the accumulation of small into great farms that bettered the condition of some districts, but in a great measure the happy change that took place in the mode of husbandry and farming, is a conjecture that may safely be ventured. The time is, perhaps, at no great distance, when proprietors of estates will find it as much their interest to diminish, at least, some of their farms, as they formerly imagined they did by enlarging them.

*Heritors.*—The landed property of Morbattie is subdivided amongst twelve heritors; but his Grace the Duke  
of



of Roxburgh has by far the largest portion. None of the heritors but one reside on their property in this place.

*Population.*—As the increase of the village is supposed to be equal to the depopulation of the country part of the parish, when small farms were annihilated, the present number of inhabitants is supposed to be nearly the same as in the return made to Dr Webster in 1755, which was then 789.

*Agriculture.*—Little more than one fourth part of the parish is at present under culture. It is certain, however, from the traces of the plough which yet remain on the higher grounds, that much more of this and the adjacent country was anciently under tillage than at present. It is generally believed, that, during the long and cruel contest between the two kingdoms, a great portion of the lands on the borders were kept under white crops, as it was not so easy for the plundering parties, in these unhappy times, to carry off crops of grain, as it was, had the land been in pasture, to drive away the cattle. The drill turnip husbandry is carried on here with great spirit, and is considered as one of the chief improvements of agriculture in this country. Large fields of turnips are purchased by the graziers for feeding off with sheep. The very small quantity of lint that is produced in the parish is mostly dressed or scutched by the hand at the owner's houses.

*Manufactures.*—Artisans and tradesmen are far from being numerous in the parish, there being no more than are necessary to supply the inhabitants in customary work, in which are employed 4 weavers, 6 wrights and joiners, 2 smiths, 3 masons, 5 tailors, 1 shoemaker. Tailors continue the practice of working in their employers houses,  
and



and receive 8 d. a-day, and their victuals. Wrights have 1 s. a-day and victuals, or 1 s. 6 d. without them. A small quantity of linen-yarn is spun, some of it on the double-handed wheel. This instrument was introduced from Fife-shire into this parish and neighbourhood, about 15 years ago, by Mrs Morrison, wife of the Reverend David Morrison, minister in the Seceding meeting-house at Morbattle. But little more yarn is spun than what is necessary for private use. The women in this part of the country being accustomed to work much in the agricultural operations of the field, are little disposed for sedentary employments, and therefore, in general, sit down to the spinning wheel with great reluctance. From the present disposition and habits, both of males and females in this place, the introduction of manufactures among them would not, it is probable, meet with great success.

*Church.*—The present church was built in 1757, and is a commodious place of worship. The stipend, including the manse and glebe, is worth about L. 160. The Duke of Roxburgh is patron. The Reverend James Richardson fills at present the charge. A meeting-house, adhering to the Antiburgher Seceders, was, a considerable number of years ago, erected in the village of Morbattle; where a clergyman of that persuasion regularly officiates, to a pretty numerous congregation collected from all the neighbourhood.

*School.*—The salary annexed to the parochial school is 100 merks Scots, with a free house and kail-yard. The school-wages are 1 s. 6 d. for teaching the English language; 2 s. for writing, and 2 s. 6 d. for arithmetic and Latin. The number of scholars is, at an average, about 25. His perquisites for the session-clerkship are 4 d. for every baptism



tism that he enrols in the parochial records, and 2 s. 6 d. for every proclamation of marriage, with a trifle for writing testimonials, or certificates for character. His income receives an addition of L. 3 or L. 4 a-year, for collecting the poor-rates in the parish. But this and the session-clerkship do not belong to him as schoolmaster; they are given him at the option of the heritors, minister, and session. The whole income, however, is too small for enabling a teacher of youth to live in a manner suitable to the station of so public a character. The session-records of this parish commence in 1697. No register of burials is kept.

*Poor.*—About 16 indigent persons are commonly on the session-roll. Their principal source of support is L. 1600, 3 s. 8 d. Sterling, that was, a good many years ago, bequeathed to this parish by Mr John More, a native of Morbottle, who made his fortune in the East Indies, where he died. The money was left to the management of the heritors and kirk-session of Morbottle, and bequeathed principally for the support of orphans and infirm old people. It is lent out for interest on landed security. Partly owing to this fund, the number of poor is probably greater than otherwise it would be, as people from the neighbouring parishes resort here, from a motive of being supported in old age. A small assessment on the parish is sometimes found to be necessary. The collections at the kirk, amounting to a very small sum, is commonly distributed by the session to occasional poor.

*Diseases.*—This part of the country is not remarkable for any uncommon or peculiar disease. The inhabitants are generally healthy and strong, and many of them live to a good old age. The small-pox makes sometimes great havoc among the children; and inoculation, the best remedy



yet known for that loathsome disease, is not much practised.

*Antiquities.*—The remains of several encampments, and rows of stones, called *tryst-stanes*, are antiquities, probably of the most ancient date in the parish. The *tryst-stanes* are commonly on high ground. They are placed perpendicularly in rows, not unfrequently in a circular direction. It is said, as also the name imports, that, in times of hostilities, they marked the places of resort for the borderers, when they were assembling for any expedition of importance. The ruins of Whitton-castle and Corbet-house are the only remains of large buildings or places of strength in the parish.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The roads in the parish, of which none are turnpike, are very far from being good, and are often almost impassable. Two public houses (small ones) in the village serve the inhabitants and passengers with refreshment. Formerly there were four mills in the parish; now two are found to be sufficient to grind all the corn that is needed by the inhabitants. About 20 acres may contain all the growing wood in the parish, and these were but lately planted. The chief dependence for fuel is on coal brought from the English border, and which sells at a high price. There are a few peat-mosses in the parish, but the people, in general, are so much occupied in the field, during summer, that the casting and preparing of peats are greatly neglected.



NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF WEMYSS,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF  
KIRKCALDY).

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE GIB, Minister.*

*Name, Extent, and Surface.*

**T**HE name of the parish is said to be Gaelic, and signifies a *Cave*, in allusion to the number of natural caves on the sea-shore, near the village of Easter Wemyss. Hence, too, all that tract of ground between the lower part of the water of Ore and the sea, was, in old times, called Wemyssshire. The parish is distant from the Presbytery-seat about three miles. Its greatest length, which is from S. W. to N. E. will not exceed 6 miles, nor its greatest breadth  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . It is bounded by the parish of Dysart on the W.; by Markinch on the N. and E.; the water of Leven separates it from a small part of the parish of Scoonie on the N. E. ; and the frith of Forth washes it on the S. The ground, which is in some places high along the shore, af-



terwards rises gently to the N. The shore, from high water mark outward, is lined with rocks, which are not high, being mostly covered at high water.

*Climate and Diseases.*—Like all the S. and E. shore of Fife, being much exposed to the E. winds in the spring months, it is unfavourable to pulmonic complaints, but in other respects, the climate cannot be said to be unhealthy. Some of the fishermen are afflicted with calculous concretions: and the reason which they generally assign for this, is their being so much exposed to cold with wet feet. Many children die of the small-pox in the natural way. In the village of Buckhaven upwards of 30 were lately cut off. It is to be hoped, however, that the prejudice against inoculation will not in future be so general as it has been. Many persons live to upwards of 80; and within these two years, 3 persons have died above 90.

*Villages.*—Wester Wemyss is a burgh of barony, with 2 bailies, a treasurer, and council. There are other 3 villages on the coast, viz Easter Wemyss, Buckhaven, and Methil. There are 2 villages in the country called E. and W. Coaltowns.

*Soil and Agriculture.*—The soil varies both in the country and on the coast. In some places it is fine black loam; in others light and brown, sometimes approaching to sand; and a small part, particularly in the N. W. corner, is cold and wet. It is all arable, and, with a few acres excepted, produces good crops of wheat, bear, beans, pease, oats, potatoes, and turnip. The farmers are, in general, active and industrious, and attentive to every improvement in agriculture. In farms near the villages, land is let to trades people for planting potatoes, who must all afford manure, hand.



hand-hoe their potatoes, and pay at the rate of L. 3 the acre. By this means the farmer procures a quantity of good manure, has his ground well cleaned, and an excellent crop of wheat or bear the following year. The plough used is Small's, which is drawn by two horses, and held and managed by one man. There are no sheep, but a few kept by Colonel Wemyss for family-use, and they are of a very fine kind. There are 16 farms, which are rented from L. 25 to upwards of L. 400 a-year.

A considerable quantity of land near the coast is rented by land-labourers, who reside in the villages, and though, with many of them, farming is only a secondary object, yet the land in general is well laboured, and produces good crops. Almost all sow some turnip for their cows in winter, and feed their horses with potatoes, which are generally boiled and mixed up with light corn. The sea-weed, or ware, which is driven in by the sea all along the shore, makes excellent manure when spread immediately after it is carried to the land. This land, which is usually called the Acre-land, lets from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2, 15 s. the acre.

*Plantations.* — There is but little old wood, excepting some at the castle of Wemyss. The late proprietor, the Hon. James Wemyss, Esq; inclosed a great part of the parish; some of it with stone and lime, and other parts with ditches and hedge, and planted many thousands of trees; and his son, the present proprietor, is going on with the same plan. He has inclosed much, and for these 6 years past has planted, of various kinds, upwards of 200,000 trees every year, in different places. All the plantations are in a very thriving way, and in a few years will both warm and greatly beautify the grounds.



*Fishing and Buckhaven.*—From the scarcity of haddocks for some years, several of the fishermen have entered into the navy, or on board merchant-ships, and others have become day-labourers in country work. Formerly there were in Easter Wemyss 5 boats, with 5 men each, and one in Wester Wemyss, with 5 men, and now there is only one boat in Easter Wemyss, and the crew consist of old men. In Buckhaven, the fishing is still continued with little alteration in the number of fishermen; and though fish are much scarcer than formerly, yet the fishermen are in some measure compensated by the high price, and certain market for those they catch. The fish usually caught are haddock, cod, turbot, skate, whittings, soles, flounders, makarel and herring. A considerable quantity of lobsters and crabs, or partons, (and sometimes a few cray or crawfish) are taken, with trap-creels let down into the sea upon the rocks near the shore. A worthy fisherman assured me, that he has known, about 40 years ago, 25,000 haddocks caught by the fishermen of Buckhaven in one day, which were sold from 6 d. to 10 d. the 100; now more is sometimes given for a single haddock. At present, most of the fish caught here are sent to the Edinburgh market, and the rest are sold in this neighbourhood by women, who carry them in creels on their backs. When fishing was plenty, few of the fish caught in this parish were sent to Edinburgh, because then the fishermen in the East of Fife carried their fish to that market, and those being taken in deeper water, and consequently larger, were always preferred. At that time most of the fish caught here were sold in the neighbouring burghs, or bought up by men who carried them in creels on horses to a considerable distance, where they found a good market. This last gave employment to many in the parish; and a few years ago, some of them had got neat carts fitted up for the purpose; but of late, they have  
been



been obliged, in a great measure, to give this up, both from the scarcity and high price of fish. Twelve boats, with 6 men in each, used in the month of August, to go from this parish to the herring-fishing off Dunbar; but the encouragement for some years past was so small, that they had entirely abandoned it. There is now, however, a prospect of this fishing being revived by the appearance of herring in the Bay of Inverkeithing; if there is encouragement, the fishermen here will not fail to improve it.

The fishermen in Buckhaven generally marry when young, and all of them marry fishermen's daughters of the same village. I am particularly indebted to a very ingenious and intelligent General for a letter written by my late amiable and worthy predecessor, the Rev. Dr Harry Spens\*, when minister of this parish, (dated Wemyss, 20th August 1778), from which the following particulars respecting the original inhabitants of Buckhaven, &c. are transcribed:

“ As far as I have been able to learn, the original inhabitants of Buckhaven were from the Netherlands about the time of Philip II. Their vessel had been stranded on the shore. They proposed to settle and remain. The family of Wemyss gave them permission. They accordingly settled at Buckhaven. By degrees they acquired our language and adopted our dress, and for these threescore years past, they have had the character of a sober and sensible, an industrious and honest set of people. The only singularity in their ancient customs that I remember to have heard of was, that of a richly ornamented girdle or belt, wore by their brides of good condition and character at their marriage, and then laid aside  
“ and

\* He published an English translation of Plato, de Repub.



“ and given in like manner to the next bride that should  
“ be deemed worthy of such an honour. The village con-  
“ sists at present of about 140 families, 60 of which are  
“ fishers, the rest land-labourers, weavers, and other me-  
“ chanics.”

*Minerals and Fossils.*—There is a great quantity of free-  
stone, but in general of a reddish colour, open and porous,  
and apt to crumble when much exposed to the weather.  
There is limestone, but it is said not to be of a good quali-  
ty; perhaps it would have been more valued had lime been  
in less abundance in the neighbourhood. Ironstone has  
lately begun to be wrought; but what deserves here parti-  
cularly to be noticed is the excellent coal with which this  
parish abounds, and which has been wrought for some cen-  
turies. In the west ground of the parish, besides what is  
called Dyfart coal, (which is 21 feet thick, with 3 feet of  
coarse coal left for a roof) of which a very extensive field  
remains to be wrought in the estate of Wemyss, there are  
other 10 or 11 workable seams of coal, most of which have  
been wrought above the level of the sea. The principal  
seam of the 10 or 11 is now working between 50 or 60  
fathoms below the surface. This seam is 10 feet thick,  
but 8 feet of it is only wrought, viz. 5 feet of very fine  
splint, and 3 feet of free, the other 2 feet being left for a  
roof. The water is raised by a steam-engine. The coal  
is brought to the pit-bottom by horses under ground, and  
then raised by horse-gins. Coal for exportation is driven  
in large waggons from the pits to the harbour of Wester  
Wemyss. The other seams in this part of the parish, which  
have been wrought, are all entire below the level of the  
sea, excepting one, a small part of which was wrought near  
the sea, about the year 1656, at which time the water was  
drawn off by horses.



In the east ground of the parish there are several workable seams of coal. The Right Hon. David Earl of Wemyss, (a nobleman of a great and public spirit), who kept a particular account of the coal, written with his own hand, mentions seven seams of coal which he had cut through in making a level mine from the sea-shore, which he drove upwards of 600 fathoms across the metals. In working this level in 1671, he observes, " I am still working that level in stone, with two men in it day and night " (except Sundays). I give them 10 s. Scots a-day, their bearers 4 s. Scots a-day, the windles men get 6 s. Scots a day or night. I sharpen their picks and furnish their candles." The only seams that have been wrought in this part of the parish for a considerable time were, one 8 feet thick, and 20 fathoms from the surface, and another much about the same thickness, and 7 fathoms deeper. The main coal is 12 feet thick, of an excellent quality, and was always preferred at the foreign markets. It was formerly wrought to a considerable depth by two engines, at Kirkland of Methil, which were driven by the water of Leven. To the S. of Kirkland this coal is cut off by a hitch or dike, which throws it down 30 fathoms. This has lately been cut out under the care of a very ingenious and active engineer, and the coal is now working level free. A wagon-way of 2 miles from the pits to the harbour of Methil is now completed, and every thing promises an extensive trade; and indeed, from this seam of coal, with others lying contiguous, it would not be at all surprising to see, in a few years, Methil rank among the first coal-ports in Scotland \*.

*Salt.*

\* David Earl of Wemyss, in his remarks on Methil, observes, that ' the Bishop of St Andrew's did create it into a free burgh of barony in 1662,



*Salt.*—There are 9 salt-pans at Methil, and 7 at Wester Wemyss. These works have been long carried on, and much salt is made at them, both for land-sale and exportation.

*Manufactures, Commerce, &c.*—Almost every substantial family used annually to make a few pieces of good linen, from yarn of their own spinning, which was wrought by weavers in the parish, and generally bleached by the proprietors themselves, and then sold in the public markets held in this and the neighbouring parishes for the purpose. In this way the weavers had been employed time immemorial till about the year 1750, that some in Easter Wemyss began to manufacture linen themselves, and ever since this business has been extended and improved. The linen now made is generally well known for its quality and fineness. Most of it is made from Scotch flax, the greatest part of which is spun in the parish. It is thought by manufacturers to be superior to any in the country; and in confirmation of this, it may here be observed, that the premiums given by the trustees for linen and sheeting were adjudged for 5 years successively to manufacturers in this parish; to one in the years 1785 and 1786, and to another in the 1787, 1788, and 1789. Since the latter period, the number of looms has increased, and the manufactory varied; part of the looms being now employed in weaving checks and ticks for manufacturers in this and the neighbouring parishes. There are about 120 looms employed.

At

“ 1662, called Methil, with a weekly mercate on the Wednesdays, and  
 “ two public fairs in the year, viz. one on the 22d June, St John's day,  
 “ and 27th December, also St John's day in winter, in that year 1662,  
 “ and so for ever, holden of him and his successors, Bishops of St Andrews,  
 “ drew's, paying him yearly 20s. Scots as a feu-duty for ever.”



At Kirkland, in the N. E. extremity of the parish, on the river Leven, near the ports of Methil and Inverleven, a large spinning work has been carried on for some time, by some gentlemen of London and Dundee, under the firm of Aislabie, Nielson, and Company. They spin a considerable quantity of cotton and linen yarn, particularly of the latter, which they have begun to manufacture into cloth. Their yarns are approved of, and they are believed to be going on very successfully. The situation of this establishment is a very advantageous one, and it is capable of great extension, as well for bleaching and printing, as for spinning the yarns and manufacturing the cloth. The company already employ about 300 people, and the business seems to be increasing. Previous to the establishment of this work, there were at Kirkland only two or three houses, but now a number of very neat and convenient houses are built, and in a short time it is probable that it will be a considerable village. Kirkland is said to have been the place first proposed by the Carron Company for establishing their works.

A little to the west of Kirkland is a waulk or fulling-mill, and dye-house, where business has been long carried on, and is considerably increased of late years. There is only one corn-mill in the parish, but there are others equally convenient on Colonel Wemyss's property, lying in the parish of Markinch.

The *maritime commerce* has much increased of late. There are 10 square-rigged vessels and one sloop belonging to this parish, whose register measure may amount to upwards of 1480 tons. They are mostly employed in the carrying trade. They are generally loaded with coal outwardly, and bring home wood, iron, flax, &c. from the Baltic to the different ports in the frith of Forth. Some



of them have been freighted to the Mediterranean, West Indies, and America; and one is at present engaged by Government in the transport service.

At Wester Wemyss two *ship-carpenters* began to build ships about seven years ago. The situation is good, and they have found great encouragement. They employ about 18 apprentices, and several journeymen. Here some of the best vessels which have sailed from the frith of Forth for the West Indies have been built, as well as some for the Baltic trade. Other two ship-carpenters have just begun to build at Methil, a most convenient situation for the business, and it is thought that they will meet with equal encouragement with the former.

A gentleman in Easter Wemyss, who carries on a considerable brewery, lately began to import wood from the Baltic, which has been of great advantage to the neighbourhood; and from the rapid and extensive sale which he has met with, cannot fail to secure benefit to himself.

There are properly no *merchants* in the parish, with the above exception. Some persons sell a small quantity of necessary articles; but as there are opportunities every day of being provided with these at a cheaper rate from Kirkcaldy, they meet with no great encouragement.

The *sea-weed* on the rocks upon the shore is cut every 3 years, and yields about 100 tons of kelp. The time of cutting is in June and July.

There are two good *barbours* in the parish. One at Methil, which was built by the Right Hon. David Earl of Wemyss about the year 1650, solely at his own expense. The other is at Wester Wemyss, but when built is unknown. It was some years ago greatly improved by a basin for cleaning it.

*Exports*



*Exports and Imports.*—Coal and salt are the only exports. The quantity differs according to the demands. At an average there is shipped at Wester Wemyss annually 6000 tons of coal, mostly for Amsterdam, Hamburgh, and Middleburgh, being of a quality particularly suited for light-houses. The light on the island of May, at the entrance of the frith of Forth, is supplied from this coal\*.

About 40,000 bushels of salt are annually shipped from this parish for the different ports from Dundee to Inverness.

The imports are mostly oak-timber for ship-building, Memel and Norway timber, deals, &c. Gottenburgh iron, deals and battons; in all about 10 cargoes in the year.

*Bridges and Roads.*—There are no bridges in the parish, but a small one over a rivulet that passes through Easter Wemyss, nor is there any need for more. The turnpike-road from Kirkcaldy to Cupar by Kennoway, and to the east of Fife, passes through the north part of the parish; but from its distance from the coast, being near  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile, the greater part of the inhabitants reap little advantage from it.

*Inns.*—There are properly no inns, but there are a sufficient number of houses where ale and spirits are sold.

*Price of Provisions and of Labour.*—The price of provisions and of labour has considerably advanced of late years. The price of butcher meat is from 4 d. to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  d. a-pound troy, at different seasons of the year; of butter, from  $7\frac{1}{2}$  d. to

\* As there is now a pretty certain prospect of the great coal in the east part of the parish being again wrought, it is probable that a much greater quantity of coal will be exported from the port of Methil.



to 10 d.; of a hen, from 1 s. to 1 s. 4 d.; of chickens, from 7 d. to 9 d. a pair; of eggs, from 3 d. to 5 d. a dozen.

The wages of men-servants are from L. 6 to L. 8 a-year; and those who have houses of their own, and maintain themselves, have 6½ bolls of meal, with an allowance of milk, and sometimes, in lieu of milk, L. 1, 6 s. Day-labourers have from March to October 1 s. 2 d. a-day, and 1 s. the rest of the year. Masons 1 s. 8 d. and carpenters or wrights 1 s. 6 d.

*Population.*—According to the account given to Dr Webster in 1755, the number of souls amounted to 3041. The following is a pretty accurate list taken in the year 1791:

	Families.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Wester Wemyss, -	235	353	416	769
Easter Wemyss, -	153	268	289	557
Buckhaven, -	163	277	324	601
Methil, -	81	153	161	314
E. and W. Coaltowns,	93	166	227	393
Country, including Kirkland, 71		191	200	391
	<hr/> 796	<hr/> 1408	<hr/> 1617	<hr/> 3025
Total in 1755, -		-		3041
Decreased, -		-		<hr/> 16

*List*



*List of Births and Marriages, taken from the Parish Register,  
for 10 Years\*.*

	Births,			Marriages.
	Male.	Fem.	Tot.	
1782,	26	32	58	29
1783,	28	36	64	10
1784,	34	20	54	33
1785,	34	43	77	35
1786,	47	60	107	13
1787,	37	35	72	21
1788,	43	53	96	24
1789,	35	39	74	21
1790,	49	55	104	25
1791,	44	33	77	17
Total,	-	-	783†	228

Population has certainly increased in some of the villages, particularly in Easter Wemyss and Methil; but it has greatly decreased in the country part of the parish. In the session-records, there is mention of many places, of some of which no vestige can now be traced; and that which remains of others, is only a few ash-trees, which were usually planted round their gardens or kail-yards. This decrease is owing to the same causes which have in general operated in other parts of the country, viz. the monopolizing

\* The people in this parish are remarkably attentive to register their childrens births; and of the above list of marriages, both bridegroom and bride, with a few exceptions, belonged to the parish. There being two burying-places besides the church-yard, and no proper register of deaths kept, the number of burials cannot be ascertained.

† During the above period there were 8 times twins.



enclosing of farms, the introduction of two-horse ploughs, inclosing, and a greater proportion of land laid out in grass.

*Ecclesiastical State, Heritor, &c.*—The church is an old Gothic building in the form of a cross; there are evident marks of considerable additions to it, but no dates that can fix its age. It was repaired and much improved in 1792, and is now a well-lighted, warm, and decent place of worship. The church and manse are in the thriving village of Easter Wemyss, the most central part of the parish. The patronage belongs to the Town-council of Edinburgh. It belonged to the family of Wemyss till about the 1214, when Sir John de Wemyss\* gifted it to a religious house at Soltray in Mid-Lothian. The reason he assigned for this donation is in these words, “pro anima mea, et anima Comitum Duncani, et pro animabus patris et matris.”

Colonel William Wemyss of Wemyss, Esq; member of Parliament for the county of Fife, is sole heritor of the parish, and his family resides in it at the castle of Wemyss. The stipend, as settled by the Court of Session February 1794, is L. 50 of money, 64 bolls of meal, 32 bolls of bear, and L. 5 : 11 : 1½ for furnishing communion-elements. The manse was built in 1791, and, to the honour of the heritor, it is one of the best in the country. Most of the old offices were removed in the same year, and a part of the old manse was fitted up to supply their place. The site of manse, garden, and offices includes about an acre of ground, inclosed with stone walls. The glebe contains be-  
tween

\* This Sir John was the first who took the surname of Wemyss. Till about this time surnames were not used in Scotland. They only added either their father's name after their own, or some epithet expressive of something which referred either to body or mind.—BUCHAN. Hist. rer. Scoticar. lib. 7.



tween 8 and 9 acres, and is all inclosed \*. There are some rocks and sea-weed, which belong to the minister, and as this property is near the glebe, it is of great advantage for manure. For the kelp from the rocks the present incumbent has received about L. 5, 5 s. every three years.

There was once a parsonage and vicarage at Methil, the patronage of which was disposed by Archbishop Hamilton to Sir John Wemyss of Wemyss, who died in 1571 †.

*The following Persons have been Ministers of this Parish since the Revolution.*

Rev. Mr Archibald Riddell, admitted October 1691, and translated to Kirkcaldy June 1697.

Rev. Mr Thomas Black, translated from Strathmiglo October 1697, and translated to Perth July 1698.

Rev. Mr James Grierson, ordained September 1698, and translated to Edinburgh July 1710.

Rev. Mr John Cleghorn, translated from Burntisland February 1711, died at Wemyss February 1744.

Rev. Mr Harry Spens, ordained November 1744, and translated to the Professorship of Divinity in the University of St Andrew's, October 1780.

Rev.

\* A considerable quantity of flax is raised in this parish; and the glebe, from the following remark, will appear to be no unfavourable soil for it. The Rev. Dr Spens sowed one year 9 lippies of lintseed, which yielded from the mill 18 stones. In 1787, the present incumbent sowed 3 lippies, which he winnowed from his preceding crop, and it yielded from the mill 7½ stones. The same year he sowed 2 lippies of foreign seed, which only yielded 2 stones 10 lb. It may be of some advantage to observe, that the lint 1787 was pulled before it was fully ripened, and great care was taken in the watering of it. Much lint is lost from being too long in the water.

† This Sir John Wemyss, says Bishop Leslie, "upon the head of the Gentlemen of Fife in 1547, gave the English, who landed in the county, a considerable defeat, and killed about 700 of them."



Rev. Mr William Greenfield, ordained September 1781, and translated to Edinburgh, November 1784.

The present incumbent was ordained March 1785.

*Catechist*.—The Right Honourable George Earl of Cromartie, in 1705, in testimony of his great affection and honour to the memory of Margaret, heiress and Countess of Wemyss, and Countess of Cromartie, his deceased Lady, mortified a small sum of money for founding a stipend or salary to a catechist, for catechising and instructing the coaliers and salters, and others in the parish of Wemyss, to be paid yearly to the kirk-session of Wemyss, under the care and direction of the family of Wemyss, and minister of the parish, for said use, and the payment to be made on the first day of January Old Style, being the birth-day of that illustrious Countess. The gift of presentation is in the family of Wemyss, and the presentee to be tried and admitted by the minister and kirk-session. The present catechist is the first on the establishment; he was admitted in 1749; his salary is L. 250 : 3 : 4 Scotch money, and the interest of L. 50 Sterling.

*School*.—The school-house was built in 1694. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 6 : 13 : 4. He has a house and garden. The number of scholars in winter is about 60, and in summer 40. The fees *per* quarter are, for English, 1 s. 2 d.; English and writing, 1 s. 6 d.; arithmetic, 2 s. Latin, 2 s. 6 d.; book-keeping and navigation, a guinea for each. As precentor and session-clerk, he has yearly L. 2, 10 s. and 12 s. 6 d. every time that the Lord's Supper is dispensed; for each marriage 2 s. 3 d. and each baptism 10 d.; for parochial certificates about a guinea a-year. There are several private schools.



*Poor.*—The number of poor who receive regular supply from the kirk-session on an average is 39, each of whom receive from 1 s. to 2 s. 6 d. the month. There are others, not upon the roll, who receive annually 5 s. sometimes more, to enable them to pay their house-rent; and several others receive occasional supply, as circumstances require; the annual amount of all which is from L. 50 to L. 60, raised by the weekly collections at church, the dues of pall or mortcloth, and the interest of L. 300.

*Dissenters.*—There are but few Dissenters in the parish. There is a Burgher meeting-house at Buckhaven, but has no minister. Those of the Antiburgher persuasion have places of worship in the parishes of Dyfart and Markinch. There are about 24 who join the Presbytery of Relief, and 6 of the Episcopal persuasion.

*Antiquities, Castle of Wemyss, &c.*—Under this article may be ranked the ruins of the castle of Easter Wemyss, usually called Macduff's Castle, and said to have been built by Macduff, who was created Earl of Fife about the 1057, and on whom King Malcolm Canmore conferred many very uncommon privileges. Two square towers, and a considerable part of a wall that has surrounded the castle, still remain. It is situated on a delightful eminence, about 100 yards from the shore.

In the 1290, on the death of King Alexander III. the Estates of the kingdom sent Sir Michael Wemyss of Wemyss, and Sir Michael Scot of Balweary, in the parish of Abbotshall, as ambassadors to Norway, to bring home Princess Margaret, grand-daughter to the late king, and undoubted heiress of the Crown of Scotland. Fordun, in his history, says, “*Nobiles Scotiæ duos milites, scientia et moribus præclaros Michaelem Wemyss et Michaelem Scot ad Regem Norvegiæ, solemniter direxerunt.*” Bucha-



nan styles them, "Equites Fifiiani illustres." They went to Norway; but unhappily for them and their country, the Princess died at Orkney on her passage to Scotland. As a monument of this honourable embassy there is still preserved in the castle of Wemyss a large silver basin, of an antique figure, which was given by the King of Norway to Sir Michael Wemyss.

Perhaps, under this article should also be mentioned a stone, on the turnpike-road, about one-third of a mile after entering the parish from the east; it has stood time immemorial; is 4 feet in height above ground, and 3 feet diameter, by some called the Standing Stone, by others the Half-way Stone between Kirkcaldy and Kennoway. For what reason it was placed there, the writer could never learn any thing satisfactory.

The castle of Wemyss, situated a little to the east of the burgh of West Wemyss, and close by the shore, on a cliff between 30 and 40 feet above the level of the sea, is a large and magnificent building. When it was built is uncertain, but part of the east wing is said to be near, if not as old as the castle of Easter Wemyss. It received considerable additions about the beginning of the 17th century, from the Right Honourable David Earl of Wemyss, and his grandson, being Lord High Admiral of Scotland, raised a good wall, in the form of a fort, upon a beautiful bowling-green, and placed a few cannon to answer salutes from ships as they passed. The present proprietor laid out a piece of ground, some years ago, in a garden, with high walls, an elegant green-house, hot-houses, &c.; and it is said that there are few, if any gardens in Scotland, where there is so much forcing as in this. It was in the castle of Wemyss that Lord Darnley had his first interview with Queen Mary, 13th February 1565. The Queen was at this time on a tour of visits in Fife, which, says the famous John Knox, caused



caused wild fowl to be so dear, that partridges were sold at a crown a-piece.

Perhaps in few parishes has land been longer in the possession of one family than in this. Hugo, or Eugenius, second son of Gillimacheal, 4th Earl of Fife, and grandson of Macduff, the first Earl, got from his father the lands of Wemyssshire, &c. &c. and his descendent is present proprietor of them. Gillimacheal was witness to the foundation-charter of the Abbey of Holyroodhouse in the 1128. The lands of Wester Wemyss have been uninterruptedly possessed by the noble family of Wemyss since the above period. The lands of Easter Wemyss went off from the family, and were possessed by a family of the name of Livingston, and then by the Colvills of Ochiltree; but after 200 years separation, they were again added to the estate of Wemyss, by the Right Honourable John Earl of Wemyss, who was High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in the year 1641.

*Caves.*—It was observed, that the parish derives its name from the number of natural caves in it. There are seven a little to the east of Easter Wemyss, and all but one about 100 yards from high-water mark. Four of them were long ago fitted up for, and still are pigeon-houses. There are two at the bottom of the cliff, and immediately under the ruins of the castle of Easter Wemyss; one of them is called Jonathan's Cave, from a man who, with his family, resided some time in it; the entrance to the other is very narrow, but after having got through it, you find yourself in a very spacious place, in which is a well of excellent water; it is annually visited by the young people of Easter Wemyss, with lights, upon the first Monday of January Old Style, but from what this custom took its rise the writer could never learn. The seventh (the nearest to the shore)



shore) is called the Court Cave, and two reasons are assigned for the name; one is, that when the lands of Easter Wemyss were the property of the Colvills, they here held their baron-court; another, that King James IV. in a frolick once joined a company of gypsies, who were here making merry, and when the liquor began to operate, the gypsies, as usual with people of their character, began to quarrel among themselves; upon this his Majesty attempted to mediate between the parties, but they, ignorant of the rank of their new associate, were about to handle him pretty roughly for his goodness, which obliged the King to discover himself; in allusion to this affair, the cave was afterwards ironically called the Court Cave. There is another cave a little to the east of the castle of Wemyss, and much about the same distance from the shore as the former. This cave, which is about 200 feet in length, 100 in breadth, and 30 in height, was fitted up about 60 years ago by a tacksman for a glass-work; but soon after the work commenced, the man became bankrupt, and the buildings were allowed to go to ruins.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The parish derives great advantage from the abundance of coal; and when fishing was plenty, living was much cheaper here than in most places. One disadvantage which the commercial part labour under, is the want of a post-office. Though Dysart, which is the nearest post-town, is not at a great distance, yet as letters cannot be answered the same day on which they are received, without sending them by express to the office, much inconvenience is thereby occasioned, which could be easily remedied at a very small expence, as the post-boy passes through Easter Wemyss on his way to Leven.

*Character.*



*Character.*—The people in general are sober and industrious, regular in their attendance upon public worship, and apparently contented with their situations \*.

## NUM-

\* At a period when the abolition of the slave-trade has become the subject of Parliamentary consideration, the following anecdote may not be disagreeable, as being perhaps the first process of the kind that came before the Court of Session:—A gentleman from the West Indies, residing some time at Methil, a negro servant, whom he had brought with him, embraced at that time the Christian religion, and was baptized in the church of Wemyss, September 10. 1769, by the name of David Spens. Soon after this his master resolved to send him back to, and sell him as a slave in the West Indies; but Spens getting information of it, immediately left his master, and went to the house of a farmer in the parish. The master then raised a process before the Court of Session against Spens to return to his slavery, and against the farmer for advising him to desert, and also for protecting him. To defend Spens from the oppression of his master, and to assist him in asserting, what they conceived, his just rights and privileges as a British subject, the inhabitants of the parish readily espoused his cause, and raised a considerable sum of money. The cause was enrolled January 1770. Four lawyers were engaged; and on the 2d February, the cause was ably pled on both sides. Memorials were appointed to be given in for both parties; but soon after this the master died, and the cause was dropt. To the honour of the lawyers engaged, for the defendant, viz. Messrs Crobie, Al. Ferguson, Hay and Belsches, Advocates, and Mr Walter Ferguson, writer, agent, none of them would accept of a fee.



## NUMBER XXVII.

## PARISH OF SLEAT,

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF GLENELG, AND  
PRESBYTERY OF SKY).

*By the Rev. Mr MARTIN MACPHERSON, Minister.*

*Origin of the Name, &c.*

**A**S is the case in most etymological remarks, nothing certain can be said as to the word Sleat. It is most probably Danish, and may possibly allude to the peninsular situation of the place; it is a fact, that the names of many of the farms are in that language, such as Ostaig, Tarskvaig, Saafaig, Toakvaig, and Mourfaig; that is to say, East Bay, North Bay, South Bay, &c.

*Situation, Extent, and Produce.*—The parish is stretched N. E. and S. W. forming an extent of 17 English miles along the sea, having the mainland of Scotland opposite to it on the east, viz. the districts of Glenelg, Knoydart, Morrar, and Arisaig, the breadth of the channel varying from a quarter of a mile to two leagues. Sleat is bounded on



the W. and N. by the parish of Strath. The breadth of the parish is from one mile to three and a half, being, like all parts of the island of Sky, intersected by different arms of the sea.

The two extremities of the parish consist of considerable tracts of tolerable pasture-ground, well calculated for rearing black cattle, equal in quality to any the neighbourhood produces; indeed, the whole west side of the parish is made up of a pleasant mixture of arable and rough ground; and there one may likewise find three considerable stools of natural wood, consisting of oak, ash, elm, birch, arn, rone-tree, hazle, willow, and other aquatics.

Wood is peculiar to this part of the island of Sky, there being hardly a tree, natural or planted, excepting here; it may be superfluous to add, that this contributes much to the ornament, not to say usefulness of the different tenures on which this valuable commodity grows.

The east side of the parish, particularly from the farm of Knock to Tormore, forming an extent of five miles in length, and from one to one and a half in breadth, is arable, the soil being deep clay, in some places of a bluish, in others of a reddish colour, exceedingly adapted to ditching and hedging; produces middling crops of oats and potatoes, though, in spite of its southern exposure, the harvests are in general late, owing to the ground being damp, and in some places spouty, added, as was formerly mentioned, to its clayey texture; it cannot however remain a doubt, that by proper attention to inclosures and ditches, (should encouragement offer), an industrious farmer would here find a good subject to speculate and practise upon. The barony of Sleat is now subdivided into 26 different farms or tenements, which at a moderate calculation, may sow about 20 bolls each, in all 520. There is hardly any barley, the sea-ware growing on the shore being almost entirely laid

out



out in manuring potatoes. That useful root is much, and indeed necessarily cultivated here, the inhabitants living great part of the year on potatoes, and various sorts of fish, chiefly herrings, shoals of which regularly and providentially make their appearance in almost all the bays and lochs round the island, about the 20th of July, and generally remain in less or greater bodies till the middle of December. Nature, indeed, seems to have made some provision for the support of the inhabitants of this land, as the fish casts up nearly at the time that the meal is consumed. There may be planted in the parish of Sleat about 300 bolls of potatoes. Their measure is a herring-barrel filled, of such they allow three to a boll; what proportion this bears to the legal measure in the Low Country, I know not, but there may be 900 barrels planted annually, but it is to be understood, that this is almost altogether done in the lazy-bed way. What attaches the inhabitants to this mode of planting potatoes is, that they conceive the ground requires less preparation than when planted in the drill. Of oats there are from 4 to 6 returns; potatoes from 10 to 14; there have been from 34 to 38 returns in the drill way, but this held nowhere but in small spots, where the preparation of the ground was much attended to. There are only 12 ploughs in the parish; the other implements of tillage are garden and crooked spades. Linseed is sown here with success, though in small quantities, but enough to show that the ground is well adapted to such purpose.

The fuel is entirely turf or peat; it is unnecessary to describe the process of cutting and drying it; but I am sorry to observe, that this article takes up a great proportion of the farmer's time, and that very often their labour is in vain, particularly when the latter end of summer, and the beginning of autumn, happens to be rainy, which unfortunately is too often the case in the Western Highlands, and  
this



this circumstance must make the husbandman and grazier bid adieu to all regular calculation.

At a moderate calculation, there may be 2600 head of black cattle in the parish. It is impossible to say exactly what number is annually sold, as the sales must depend upon a number of contingent circumstances. The breed of horses is small, and entirely used for the different purposes of agriculture, the number may be 250 or thereabout. As to sheep, the number in the parish is so few, that it is hardly worth the calculating. Such as can afford to eat mutton are obliged to purchase from the neighbouring sheep-walks.

*Population.*—In the year 1755, the number of souls in the parish was 1250; and now, notwithstanding emigrations, and repeated drains to the army, the inhabitants amount to 1788. The proportion of males to females is as 5 to 6; the number of deaths for years back is from 18 to 28; marriages from 9 to 14; births at an average 40. There are now eight men in the parish upwards of 80; of women above that age, five; of that number, one is 98, and another 95.

*Antiquities.*—There are two castles in this parish tolerably conspicuous; 1st, *Dunstaich*, built upon a rock, on the west side of Sleat; the communication betwixt this rock and the opposite side was kept up by a draw-bridge, but from the appearance of the mason-work on that side of the castle, the arch seems to be modern; the building on the west side has every appearance of antiquity, part being circular, and covered from top to bottom with ivy. There has been a prison and draw-well; all this seems to infer, that the edifice was reared at different times, and perhaps in different ages; he must be an ill-informed reader that



does not know that this castle is much celebrated in the well-known works of Fingal. At the distance of three miles on the eastern shore stands castle *I' Channuis*, i. e. the Castle at the end of a Bay. This structure is likewise partly ancient, partly modern, one side being circular, and covered with ivy, the other being built in the common style of masonry. This castle held out a siege, if I remember well, in the reign of James IV. from the Macleods, who had obtained the Royal sanction for committing depredations on the country. The siege was raised in a great measure through the address and intrepidity of a lady, styled, *Mari Chaisfail*, i. e. Mary of the Castle, her residence being probably in the castle or neighbourhood previous to the siege; it does not, however, appear, that this heroine shared the same fate with the Maid of Orleans. There are besides five duns, of which hardly any thing remains but the name; such as, Dun-Phaick in Kilmore, Dun-Flo in Tormore, Dun-Geilt in Carradle, Dun-Islay in Ostaig, Dunan-Choinach; the three first are Danish. At Dun-Flo there may be seen a number of human bones, a party of King William's troops having landed from a ship of a Captain Porringer in the month of September 1688, after having burned the house of Sir Donald Macdonald, were by the natives forced to reembark after a skirmish, in which the Royalists were defeated with the loss of 26 men. Dun-Islay seems to have taken its name from the following circumstance; a party of the inhabitants of that island, at a very remote period, landed in the neighbourhood of this rock, where they fortified themselves, and were at length cut off by the inhabitants.

*Church.*—The parish-church was built in the year 1681, and has lately undergone repairs; it is the largest structure  
of



of that sort in the island. There is no manse or designed glebe, the present incumbent being accommodated with a farm and tolerable mansion-house. The stipends amount to no more than the *minimum*, viz. 800 merks Scots, communion-elements, according to some mens opinion, inclusive. The King is Patron; Lord Macdonald sole heritor. The real rent is L. 1300 Sterling, or thereabouts. All the inhabitants are Presbyterians.

*School.*—There is a parochial school, in which most branches of literature are at present taught by James Beverly, a native of Aberdeen, the number of scholars attending varies from 25 to 40. The salary and emoluments of the school may amount to L. 24 Sterling. There has been no Society-school since the year 1778.

*Poor.*—They are in number at this time 25, who are supported in some measure by the collection. They have been of late years much obliged to the donations of a gentleman, who is a native of this country, (a son of the late incumbent of this parish), Sir John Macpherson, once Governor-General of Bengal.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are no made roads in this parish. There is an excellent and well-known harbour, *Isle Ornafoy*, a good deal frequented by shipping, though they are generally small, owing to its local situation; there is anchorage for vessels of almost any size; I have often seen 100 sail riding at once in the bay, chiefly herring-busses; now and then, indeed, ships from the Baltic touch here. Wages of men-servants are from L. 2 to L. 3 Sterl. each, besides shoes; the wages of women from 12s. to L. 1, and shoes. I conceive it unnecessary to give any sort of  
general



general character of the genius or temper of the inhabitants ; it is probable that some of my neighbouring brethren may have favoured the public with such disquisitions, of course their information may satisfy the reader as to the manners and customs of the parishioners of Sleat, there being naturally much similarity, by reason of the contiguity of the parishes. I deem it likewise superfluous, if not impertinent, to give any opinion as to the manner in which this part of the country is treated by the Legislature, or more properly speaking, by those in power, as it is to be supposed, that in a proportionate degree the same attention is paid to it, as to the rest of the empire.

N U M.



NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF PETERHEAD,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, DISTRICT OF  
BUCHAN, AND PRESBYTERY OF DEER).

*By the Rev. Dr MOIR, Minister.*

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*Name.*

THE present name of this parish is Peterhead, formerly called Peter's-head, supposed to be derived from the promontory which lies between the town and the sea, the *Ταιξάλον* or *Ταιξάλον ακρον* of Ptolemy, and to have the name of Peter, from being dedicated to a saint, or the Apostle of that name; though this is entirely conjecture. Some think the name has its derivation from the Greek word *Πετρος*, or the French word *Pierre*, each of these signifying a rock, on which the town is founded; others, that it takes its name from a Highland chieftain, called Peter, or Patrick, having lost his head on a plundering expedition to this parish; in support of this opinion, they say *Auchtiegall*, the name of a farm about two miles from the town, signifies in *Erse*, The place where the Highlanders stood; and that



that *Cairngall*, now in the parish of Longside, formerly part of this parish, was the place where they were encamped. What truth is in either of these conjectures, or if they deserve any credit, I leave to *antiquarians* to determine; only observing, the derivation from the Greek or French appears to have little foundation, as Peter was part of the name of this parish before any part of the town was built; besides, the town was formerly called *Keith Inch*, and retained that name till 1593, when it obtained a charter as a burgh of barony.

*Ancient Extent.*—The most ancient name of this parish was *Peter Ugie*, which is to be found in many charters. It was formerly of much greater extent than at present, and extended westward on both sides of the Ugie (or its branches) in some parts nearly nine miles. In 1620, a great part of this parish was taken off, to form, with a part of Crimond, the parish of Longside, which for some time was called *Western Ugie*.

*Situation.*—The parish is situate in the county and Synod of *Aberdeen*, district of *Buchan*, and presbytery of *Deer*; it is nearly 5 miles long from N. to S. and from 3 to 4 from E. to W.; bounded on the S. by the parish of *Crudden*; by *Longside* on the W.; the water of *Ugie*, which separates it from the parish of *St Fergus*, on the N.; and on the E. by the German Ocean.

*Surface.*—The parish is in general flat, with some little eminences, which can scarce be called hills; but from these little eminences, and the hollows formed betwixt them, the view is a little varied, and from the luxuriance of the soil, were belts or clumps of trees interspersed more frequently, of which there are very few, it would have a pleasant



pleasant appearance ; the S. and S. W. part being terminated by moss and moor, has rather a bleak aspect ; but the N. part has a variety of objects to attract attention and please the eye ; the old castles of *Raven's Craig* and *Inverugie*, formerly seats of the Earl Marischal ; the river *Ugie*, a small plantation of timber, some elegant farm-houses, the arches of the bridge of *Inverugie*, a windmill, a prospect of the town, and spire of the town-house of Peterhead, terminated by the sea, with a continued field of rich and fertile soil, capable of the highest cultivation, render the prospect very delightful. Most of these objects are observed from the high road ; but on stepping aside a few hundred yards to *Mount Pleasant*, they are seen to greatest advantage, with a few trees, venerable for their size and antiquity, contiguous to the house of *Inverugie*, a corn-mill and extensive bleachfield on the north side of the *Ugie*, with the purling streams, serpentine turns, and verdant banks of that river, which, taken altogether, form one of the richest and most beautiful landscapes in *Buchan*.

The farther account of this parish will be divided into two parts, the country and the town ; I shall first begin with the country part of the parish.

*How of Buchan*.—About a mile westward from the town is placed what is called the *How*, or *Holm* of Buchan, either from being the lowest part of that district, or from a very striking peculiarity, that on stepping aside but a few yards from the high-road with houses in your view on each side, and going down a very short declivity, you soon see nothing before you or above, but a gentle rising of the ground and the firmament. I am apt to think this peculiarity cannot now be found, from the erection of some houses lately in the parish ; at least, I have examined the spot, without observing the same appearances which were there 30 years ago.

The



The ground in the parish rises gradually from the sea to the westward, nearly to the extremity of the parish in most places. The only eminence that can be called a *hill*, is the *Stirling Hill*, which separates this parish on the S. from the parish of *Cruden*. The highest part of this hill is scarcely 200 feet above the level of the sea. In time of war, persons often resort there to observe if any ships are on the coast; it is seen at a considerable distance at sea, and was of great service to the fishers on this coast as a land-mark, before they carried a compass in their boats, which is only a late precaution, and still not generally used.

*Bays.*—There are two bays in the parish, the bays of *Peterhead* and *Invernettie*. The bay of Peterhead is formed by the town and neck of land, which projects betwixt it and the sea on the N.; this promontory is called *Cbalk Inch*, *Keith Inch*, and *Greenbill*, is unquestionably the eastermost point in Scotland, and ought to be called *Buchannefs*. The bay is terminated on the S. by the lands of *Invernettie*, terminating in a point called *Satie's Head*. The other bay is formed from this point on the N. and part of the lands of *Boddom*, the termination of the *Stirling Hill* on the S.; this point is called *Boddom-head*; but in charts, and by most strangers, is styled the *Buchannefs*. The distance from *Boddom-head* to the eastermost point of *Keith Inch*, is about 3 miles; and a line drawn through these two points is considerably to the eastward of *Satie's Head*, which divides these two bays. The shore on the south side of the parish is rocky and high; at the head of each bay there is a sandy beach. In the bay near to *Boddom-head*, there is a small rock about half a mile, or a little more, from the land, called *Skerra*, in maps denominated *Craig Hurlie*, where people often go to gather dulse, where some sea-fowl resort, and where the free masons of this town



town used sometimes to hold their meetings, when members were admitted into their society, and before the present *Keith Lodge* was erected in the town of Peterhead. The bay of Peterhead affords a very safe anchorage for ships of any burden, in all strong gales of wind from the west, W. N. W. or W. S. W. and when they blow from this quarter with any degree of violence, most ships going either to the N. or S. are obliged to return hither for shelter; and in particular, when the wind blows from W. S. W. they can fetch no harbours on this coast, nor either the frith of *Cromarty* or *Forth*, and their only place of refuge is the bay and harbour of Peterhead.

*Present Extent.*—I know of no accurate survey of this parish, which ascertains precisely the number of acres in it; I think they may be estimated at 7000; 5000 of which may be arable, and 2000 mofs and moor, which mostly lie in the S. and S. W. parts of the parish.

*Soil.*—The soil is of great variety, from a sandy loam and hazly thin soil, to a rich deep black earth, and a strong clay soil; I am of opinion the greatest part of the arable land, from the nature of the soil, is capable of as high culture, and, if properly managed, would produce as weighty crops as the same extent of land in most parts of the country.

*Air.*—The air is cold, when compared with that in other parts of the country, at least in summer; in winter the frosts are not near so intense as in other places; the air is rather moist. In summer there is a mist or fog proceeding frequently from the sea, which sometimes extends no farther than the town of Peterhead, and which is often peculiar to this parish, but it is by no means unwholesome, and



though strangers complain of it, I do not think their health, or the health of the inhabitants injured by it.

*Diseases.*—There are no diseases peculiar to this parish; rheumatism, phthisis pulmonalis, scrofula and toothachs appear to be most frequent. In 1782, the influenza was very prevalent, but not fatal, excepting in two old persons. The putrid sore throat has within these few years made its appearance, and has proved fatal in many instances. Notwithstanding the moisture of the air of Peterhead, there is no instance of a real intermittent fever or ague being hatched in this parish. Many people have agues, but they bring them from Holland, the sea-ports in the Baltic, the fenny counties of England, or the south of Scotland.

Pleurisies and peripneumonies are rare, though they sometimes happen.

Fevers are very frequent; but whatever appearance they may assume at first, they generally terminate in a low nervous fever. From a very attentive observation and extensive experience, I can speak with confidence of the danger of blood-letting in general in fevers, unless there is appearance of inflammation on some particular part. There is, however, a general prejudice in favour of this practice; when a person falls sick, he first bleeds, and then consults his physician.

*Mineral Waters.*—There are a number of chalybeate springs in this parish, and a very strong one in the town.

*Lakes and Rivers.*—There are no lakes in this parish, and only one river called the *Ugie*; this river consists of two separate small rivers, which take their rise about 18 or 20 miles from the sea; they are called the waters of *Strichen* and *Deer*, from passing by in their course these



two villages; the two branches unite in one stream about five miles from this place, and then take the name of *Ugie*. The tide flows about a mile and a half up this river, as far as the bridge of *Inverugie*, which is very neat, consisting of two arches, and was considered of such importance to this country, as to obtain an act of Parliament for its erection in the reign of James VII. Small coasting vessels may enter the river with the tide, and sometimes come in, but very seldom; it might, however, be easily rendered navigable, at least a canal might be made to communicate with the river. Such a plan has been in contemplation, the expence has been calculated by engineers, and I am informed it might be executed so as to reach a village in the centre of a very fertile and populous part of the country, about 10 miles from the sea, at a less sum than £. 4000; but no exertions have yet been made to carry this into effect, though the proprietors of the ground through which the canal must pass, are in very affluent circumstances, and by means of it the greatest advantages would accrue to a large district of their property. In this parish there are several small rivulets or streams of water running in different directions, in which there are a few trouts and eels; from these *rills*, or small *burns*, four mills are supplied with water for grinding grain into meal and malt, and there is one mill on the *Ugie* for the same purpose; there is one windmill near the town of Peterhead, on a small eminence, for grinding malt, and which lately, by a small addition to the machinery, strikes pot (pearl) barley.

*Salmon, &c.*—In the water of *Ugie* there are salmon of an excellent quality. These are seldom caught before the month of April, and from that time till the first of July are in greatest perfection. There are great varieties of fine trout, finnocks, eels, minnows, and flounders in the river.

The



The rent of the salmon-fishing is L. 100 Sterling; and the number of barrels caught annually is at an average from 50 to 60; a few, for some years, have been pickled for the London market, owing to the tacksmen, who reside in Peterhead, having very extensive connections with that branch of trade elsewhere. Fresh salmon are sold at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. per pound, formerly at 2 d. There can, however, be no ground of complaint for the price being advanced, considering the high price this article gives in other parts of the country. There are no pikes nor shell-fish in the river, except the pearl muscle, in which pearls of value are sometimes found.

*Loch of Myreside.*—I have said there are no lakes in this parish. In winter, however, a small *loch* is formed in one part of the parish, a considerable extent of ground being overflowed from the particular situation of the adjacent fields, and the ditches not being kept in proper order to carry off the stagnate water, called the *Loch of Myreside*, where persons fond of skating sometimes find amusement, when it is frozen over with ice, and where wild ducks, wild geese, and sometimes swans resort in winter. The lands overflowed by the water are meliorated in the soil, and would be more fertile if the ditches were kept in proper order.

*Sea-Fish.*—There is great variety of fish caught in this parish on the coast, and of an excellent quality, such as haddock, whittings, flounders of all kinds, roughback, plaice, sole, halibut, turbot, skate, dog and cat fish. The lobster and crab, and other species of cancer, are common; the lobsters formerly were more frequent, and purchased in great quantities for the London market; there are at present not above 4000 annually sent from this parish. The  
fishers



fishers complain of the difficulty of finding them, and are hired to fish for them, in other places in the *Murray Frish*, where they are more successful, and where one man will gain from L. 20 to L. 30 Sterling during the fishing season. The haddocks and cod are in abundance; great quantities of each are sold fresh to supply the town and country at a considerable distance, and from 400 to 600 barrels are salted, and sent from this parish to the *London* market every year. Great quantities of large cod and ling are caught in the spring on *Rattrayhead*, and on a bank which lies from 30 to 40 miles east of this town. They are dried upon the rocks, and after supplying the demand in this part of the country, are sent to the south country, where they find a ready market, and deservedly are in very high estimation. They sell here from L. 1 to L. 1, 10s. the dozen; about 3 d. each pound; and are caught chiefly by the fishermen of Boddam. The greatest part of the *cod's sounds*, in this parish are permitted to remain and rot on the sea beach, or are cast into the dughill, though the use and value of them as an article of food and delicacy at table have been known here for many years. The crews of the ships that have been sent from this town to Barryhead, preserve the sounds, tongues, and palates of the cod caught there, and the owners have always found a ready market for them. The haddocks are in season and greatest perfection in the months of May and December. Cod are good at any time of the year; of late the haddocks have been of a larger size than usual; this season they are very scarce.

From the dog fish a considerable quantity of oil is extracted; the fish is seldom eaten in this place, frequently bought to be cast into the dunghill; a good number are carried into the country, and are relished by some country people. The livers of twenty dog fish will produce one

Scotch



Scotch pint of oil, in value 1 s. Sterling, and the same number are sold at three half pence, which are purchased to be carried to the country for food, or for the dunghill, and, properly mixed with earth, make an excellent manure. They are generally caught in the months of July and August, and employ the whole attention of fishermen at that time, so that scarce any other fish is caught. *Turbot* is now caught frequently, and in great perfection. Thirty years ago they were seldom used here, frequently cast into the dunghill, or left to waste on the sea-beach. They at present sell from 4 d. to 1 s. Sterling each, and are rising every day in the price. This is one evidence of the style of living being much changed in this place. Greater quantities might still be caught if eels were used for bait; the eels that are found here are sometimes employed, and answer better than any other bait. The lamprey eels might be tried, which are found in England, and are purchased by the Dutch in large quantities, from whom many lessons might be obtained in the article of fishing. They fish for cod on this coast every summer, and for herrings, which frequently are very numerous; but none are caught here by the natives of this place, though they are perfectly acquainted with the manner of catching them, and send several ships every year to the Hebrides for that purpose. Last year in the Murray Frith, within twenty miles of this place, herrings were in such plenty, that children, sitting on a rock on the shore, and dropping a line with two or three small notched hooks fastened at the end of the line, and pulling it up briskly, caught the herrings by the belly in great numbers, which were sold through the country at a very small price. At that time I do not recollect to hear of a single ship on the coast employed in catching them. The cat fish, though reckoned a delicacy by some people, is seldom used here. There are great varieties of gray fish,



fish, called seaths, podlers and baddocks, which appear to be of one species. Mackarel is likewise found here in great perfection, and sells from 1 d. to 2 d. each. They are generally caught with a white feather fastened on a hook, the boat sailing with a quick motion. The usual bait for fish caught here, are haddocks, flounder, cod, sand eels, limpets, log, shrimps, mussels and crabs. The mussels are brought from the Newburgh at the mouth of the Ythan, about fifteen miles from this place.

*Fishing Towns.*—There are two fishing-towns in this parish, the town of *Boddom* and the Ranheads in the town of Peterhead. In the sea-town of *Boddom*, there are at present five boats which pay rent to the proprietor. These employ thirty hands. There were lately six boats; one of them was lost at sea with four of the men; it has not since been replaced. Many of the young men of that town are now sailors. There are besides two smaller boats in town for the old men. The shore of Boddom is very rocky and high. The town is placed on the top of a precipice, a few feet only from the brink of it. There are six caves betwixt the town and the southern boundary of this parish. Some of them are very high, and run in within the land sixty yards; one of them is immediately below the town, and some of the houses are above the arch. In the caves, vast numbers of pigeons and *cormorants* constantly reside.

On the estate of Boddom are the vestiges of some salt pans, salt having been manufactured there in the last century. The whole moss of Boddom is said to have been exhausted by supplying fuel for making the salt; and *Satie's Head*, formerly mentioned as a head-land, forming the boundary of the bay of *Invernettie* on the north, is said to have



have derived its names from being in the neighbourhood of the salt manufacture.

*Sea Animals, Shells and Plants.*—There are no remarkable sea-animals. The seal, porpoise and star-fish are to be found. There are some sponges and coralines, and various kinds of shells, some of them beautifully turbinated. The sea-plants are babby-ware, tangles, badderlocks and dilse. The ware is used as a manure; from 40 to 50 tons of *kelp* are made annually and exported. Dilse and badderlocks are reckoned a great delicacy by many people, particularly country people, who resort here to the mineral well in great numbers in summer, and would not think the water could have any effect, if they did not eat them in great quantities.

*Tide.*—The tide flows from the north from Rattry-head in the parish of Crimond south and south-east, and ebbs north and north-west. In spring tides it runs three miles and a half in an hour. In some places from head-lands close in shore, there is a considerable variation, and currents in different directions, and only understood by the pilots, who are perfectly acquainted with them.

*Light-houses.*—There are no light-houses in this parish. I have often thought it would be of the greatest benefit to ships if one was erected on the Stirling hill, which is a landmark in the day-time to ships at sea; but I am informed by seafaring people, though it would be a proper place from that circumstance, yet, from the frequent mists at sea, it would not easily be observed from so high a place; but there is little doubt of a light-house being useful, and even necessary, either on the *Keith Inch* in this parish, or on a small eminence in *Broadland* opposite to *Rattry-head* in the parish



parish of *Crimond*, which is nearly half way betwixt this town and the light-house at *Kinnaird's head*, in the parish of *Frazerburgh*, at the mouth of the *Murray Frith*. That light is probably of great service to prevent ships being wrecked on *Rattray-head* which come from the north and down the *Murray Frith*; but ships sailing to the northward are frequently wrecked on *Rattray-head*, or rocks near it, before it is possible for them to see the light-house at *Kinnaird's head*; and I have reason to think it will be found, that there have been as many, if not more wrecks from *Rattray-head* to the *Buchanefs* since that light-house was erected, than at any period during the same length of time before it was established.

*Battles*.—There is no tradition, or any account in history with which I am acquainted, of any battles in this parish, or sea-fights near the coast. There is a tradition of a duel or accidental rencounter betwixt two men a long time ago. One of the parties was killed, and buried in the spot where he fell. This is not above two hundred yards distant from the manse, and though placed in a fertile field, which has frequently been ploughed and trenched, the grave remains to this day untouched.

*Forts and Moat*.—There are two forts situate about two or three miles west of the town, both of small extent. The moat, parapet, foot-bank, bastions, &c. are very conspicuous. One of them is called *Bowan's billocks*, probably *Bownefs*, from being erected when bows were used. The other is at *Mount Pleasant*, directly opposite to the house of *Inverugie*, in the parish of *St Fergus*.

There is a small moat on a little eminence, called the *Mete-hill*; a mound of earth evidently artificial, and



which probably in former times was a place for distributing justice during the feudal government.

*Old Castles.*—There are two old castles in the parish. 1<sup>st</sup>, Old Craig or Raven's Craig, formerly, and for a long time, the seat of a branch of the Marischal family. It stands on the south side of the Ugie, in the north-west part of this parish. At a very distant period, it has been a place of very great strength, and, before the introduction of gun-powder, could have resisted any attack. There are evident marks of the river having been carried round the house. The walls are very thick, and fortified round. Though daily mouldering, the greatest part still remains, Foxes lodge below the ruins, and ravens hatch their young on the top of the walls. Two finer ruins are scarce to be seen than the Raven's Craig in this parish, and Inverugie in the parish of St Fergus, on the opposite side of the river, about half a mile's distance. The estate and parish of St Fergus first belonged to the Cheynes, but the two castles by intermarriages became the property of the Marischal family \*.

2<sup>dly</sup>,

\* As the noble family of Marischal had, for many centuries, in their possession the parishes of Peterhead and St Fergus, some account may be expected of them.

Cambden and Boethius say, that the family of Keith derive their origin from the Celti, a people bordering on the *Saltus Hircinus*, who gave the first check to the conquests of the Romans in the time of Augustus Cæsar, but being routed in the reign of his successor Tiberius, part of them settled under their leader *Battus*, at the mouth of the Rhine, and from his name the country was called *Battavia*. In the reign of *Corbricus II.* surnamed *Gollus*, King of Scotland, the *Batavian Celti* sent a colony to seek habitations in Britain, and some of them, whom *Fordunc* calls *Celti Melibæi*, were driven upon the northern coasts of Scotland, and settled in that part now called *Gaithnefs*.

In



2dly, *Boddom Castle*, built a long time ago by a family of the name of Keith, a branch of the Marischal family, opposite

In the time of Malcolm II. who began his reign in 1004, a complete victory was obtained over the Danes, under the command of their General *Canus* at *Barry*, a few miles below *Dundee*. This victory is, by the Scotch historians, chiefly attributed to the valour of the *Celts*, under the command of Robert their leader, who is said afterwards to have killed *Canus* in single combat. In regard of so great service, the King was pleased instantly to bestow upon Robert the honour of knighthood, and created him Heritable Great Marischal of Scotland, (but not a Peer), which office his posterity continued to enjoy until the attainder of George the 10th Earl Marischal in the 1715. The King bestowed several lands on Robert, particularly some in East Lothian, called from his name and office, Keith Marischal, and the small island in the Forth, called Inch Keith. It is not very easy to say when the family became possessed of the estate of Raven's Craig in this parish; the house is supposed to have been built in the 12th century, and to have been inhabited by some of them till a connexion was formed by one of the family marrying a Miss Cheyne, heiress of Inverugie, in the parish of St Fergus.

Sir Robert Keith, Great Marischal, who is said to be the thirteenth generation in a direct line from the above Sir Robert, was very instrumental in gaining the battle of *Inverurie*, which was the first victory King Robert Bruce obtained in 1308. The King rewarded his bravery, by bestowing on him his own lands of *Hall-Forest* near to *Kintore*. At the Parliament holden in Perth 1320, the King gave him a considerable share of the Earl of Buchan's estate, who had been forfeited for adhering to the English interest.

Sir Edward Keith, Great Marischal of Scotland, and grandson of the last Sir Robert, had two sons, viz. Sir Edward, who succeeded him, and Sir John Keith, who married *Mary Chein*, daughter and coheir of Sir *Reginald Chein* of Inverugie. John Keith had got from his father the lands of *Raven's Craig*, which then comprehended a considerable part of the parish of Peterhead; and he and his successors are designed promiscuously by the titles of Raven's Craig, Inverugie, and Craig Inverugie. John Keith's marriage with Miss Chein seems to have been betwixt 1354 and 1360. In 1535, William 4th Earl Marischal married the eldest daughter of Sir William Keith of Inverugie, and by this marriage became proprietor of the estate of Inverugie, Raven's Craig, &c. The lands particularly designed in the parish of Peterhead as belonging to that family,

in



posite to the town of Peterhead on the south side of the bay, about 3 miles distance from the town. It stands on a promontory betwixt two very deep fissures, with high craggy rocks on each side, where the sea rolls in a considerable way with great force, and such impetuosity when the wind blows from the east, that the spray of the sea is often carried over the top of the house; the chasm on the north side is within a few feet of the house, which is built on the top of a precipice; the house is not inhabited, and is in ruins; the walls are still remaining. It must appear strange how such a situation should at first have been chosen, and yet such situations are frequent on this coast. *Dunnoter*, (formerly a seat of the Earl Marischal), the old castle of *Slains*, *Slains Castle*, (seats of the family of Errol), and *Dundarg*, all stand on the brink of high rocks projecting into the sea.

Boddom castle some time formerly may have been a fortress; there were several cannon remaining there lately, and there is one not yet removed. The house was inhabited about the beginning of this century.

*Mill, and some Ruins.*—There is a common meal mill, situate in an extensive, romantic, solitary den, about 3 or

4

in a charter granted to Sir Gilbert Keith of Inverugie in 1490, are said to be "*Terras de Corfurstoun, Buckla, Scotsmill et Raven's Craig.*" The lands of *Tortrissoun*, probably the same with Corfarstoun, Scotsmill, and Raven's Craig, with the superiority of the town of Peterhead, and some lands round it, which formerly belonged to the Abbey of Deer, were in possession of the Marischal family till their forfeiture. The Marischal family were not raised to the Peerage till 1450, when William, Great Marischal of Scotland, was called by the King's writ (not by patent) to sit in Parliament by the title of Lord Keith, and in 1451 by the title of Earl Marischal.

A more particular account of that family will be found in the Statistical Account of St Fergus, a neighbouring parish, where the castle of Inverugie is situate.



4 miles west of the town; the house containing the mill is built to a rock, and seems to be an object of considerable antiquity.

There are likewise the remains of an old building, situate upon a fertile hill, about a mile N. W. of the town of Peterhead; part of a wall still remains, and a pavement of some extent overgrown with grass. A neighbouring well still retains the name of the *Abbot's Well*. Some well dressed stones, that have been evidently taken from the ruins, are observable in the adjacent buildings. Many slates have been dug up about the place, and a few coins, the inscriptions of which were entirely obliterated; human bones have likewise been found inclosed in cells built of stone. There is no tradition to ascertain precisely what these ruins are; from the name of the well it is supposed to have been an Abbey. It is more probable it was the residence of some monks belonging to the Abbey of Deer, which had very extensive property before the Reformation, and possessed a great part of this parish. The ruins of the Abbey are still to be seen at Old Deer; several of their monks possessed extensive farms at a distance, and some of them probably enjoyed the farm in this neighbourhood, and at the same time might have a place of worship and burial place; and if the *Abbot* occasionally visited them, or without this circumstance, they might give to their well the name of the head of their order.

*Natural Curiosities.*—About two years ago, on digging for a well for the accommodation of the family at the manse, at the depth of about 8 or 10 feet, a complete skeleton of a deer was found; the greatest part of the ribs fell immediately to dust on being exposed to the air; the horns were more entire, and one of them is still preserved as a curiosity. One of my predecessors, who was settled here about



70 years ago, having resided in his younger years in the high country, I suspected the deer might have been sent to him; his widow, however, who is still alive, assured me a few weeks ago there was no such animal sent during his residence here. There is no doubt, at a very distant period, there were large woods in this parish, as roots of trees are found every day in the mosses. It is very extraordinary, if it should have remained entire for so long a time; and it is not easily to be explained, how an entire skeleton should have been found, unless these animals once resided here.

A pretty large piece of *amber* was lately found on the sea-beach, a little below the manse, and is at present in my custody. This probably has floated hither from the Baltic, where amber was found in the days of *Tacitus*, and is still to be got in considerable quantities. Camden mentions a piece of amber being found at the Buchannels in this parish, of so extraordinary a size as almost to stagger belief.

*Mines and Quarries.*—The hills on the S. and S. W. parts of the parish, if they deserve that name, are covered with heath; there are no volcanic appearances in the parish, petrified parts of animals, or petrifying springs or waters; there are no coal-mines, lime, or slate quarries, but inexhaustible quarries of excellent granite, of which all the houses in the town of Peterhead are built, and great quantities exported to the London market, and for different parts in England; the granite admits of the finest polish, and lapidaries are frequently employed in forming it into various shapes for different pieces of furniture. There are some crystals found lodged in rocks of granite. Fossil shells are found in great quantities 20 or 30 feet above the present level of the sea; and it is remarkable that some of them are of a larger size than any that are now to be found



on the coast. There is great variety of pebbles to be found on the sea-shore, very beautiful for shape, colour, and polish, and some of them of considerable value.

*Pest Ground.*—In the end of last century the plague was in the town of Peterhead. The persons infected with this disease were removed out of the town; temporary huts of timber were erected for their accommodation to the northward, betwixt the town and blockhouse, on a piece of waste ground, where the cattle of the feuers were pastured; the people who died there were buried on the spot, and the houses turned down and covered with earth; it was afterwards called the pest-ground, and was never ploughed or touched, till about 20 years ago, when this common was disposed as property to the feuers of Peterhead; it was then trenched, and several pieces of timber were found not consumed; some timorous people were under apprehensions that bad effects might have ensued from breaking up this ground.

*Pits.*—On the remotest extremity of this parish, on the south side of the *Saddle-bill* of Invernettie, opposite to the Den of Boddam, (which lies betwixt the Saddle and Stirling-hill), there are a number of *pits* cast up along the brae, without any order, of such a size as to contain 3 or 4 persons. By tradition they are the *Paigbts* or *Piëts* houses, and the people in the neighbourhood believe the Piëts, who they imagine were of a diminutive size, dwelt there; but this appears incredible; and it is more probable, that in the time of incursions by the Danes, of which there are certain accounts in the neighbouring parish of Cruden, some of them had entrenched themselves there for a short time, in order to be concealed, for which the place is extremely proper, as to this day no dwelling-house is in sight  
of



of it; on the south side there is an impassable morass, and formerly it probably was inaccessible on all sides. A gentleman who has seen these, says, he has seen in Ireland pits somewhat similar, near the high-roads, where poor people came out with their children begging for charity; but these pits never could have been formed for that purpose, as no high-road is near them, nor any apparent inducement for their residence there.

*Meteors and Hurricane.*—On the 10th of November 1766, when assisting at the communion at St Fergus, a neighbouring parish about 5 miles to the N. W. of this place, I observed in the evening a very extraordinary appearance in the air; looking to the S. E. about a mile from the church, there was the appearance of a light somewhat like the *aurora borealis*. The rays gradually became more vivid and stationary, seeming like a gleam of fire, extending about a quarter of a mile from E. to W. It continued for several hours, and then disappeared. I have never heard of such a phenomenon in this country, though I am informed it is frequently observed in the West Indies.

In January 1773, there was a remarkable high wind, which truly might have been called a hurricane, it unroofed many houses here, and in several parishes at some distance from this place, destroyed a great number of trees, which were old, and of a large size; many were torn up from the roots, and some entirely split. At the manse of Peterhead it did considerable damage; the slates were torn off the house; the top of the peat-stack beat into dust like powder; the ricks in the corn-yard turned down, and sheaves carried to the distance of some hundred yards; a hay-rick, in the form of an oblong square, was cut through the middle as with a knife, from one end to the other. The wind blew from the S. W.



In 1783, the meteor so generally taken notice of was observed here. I was from home, about 20 miles from this town, in a chaise, after sunset, when there was a thick fog; a sudden light came into the chaise like a flash of lightning. The lunar rainbow, which by some people is reckoned a rare object, has been frequently observed here.

*Land Animals.*—There are no quadrupeds or birds peculiar to this parish; a few, however, may be mentioned. There are, besides domestic animals, the fox, polecat, otter, weasel, hare, mole, ground mice, and water rats; I have never heard of a badger being seen here, though I am not certain but they may be found, as I once saw one which was killed in the parish of Longside, a few miles from this place.

*Birds.*—The cuckoo, lapwing, corn-rail, woodcock, fieldfare, bat, blackbird, and swallow, make their appearance regularly once in the year at different seasons. I once saw, in the end of the year, 2 or 3 woodpeckers, but they were never observed afterwards. There are various species of hawks, and a few owls; an eagle was once killed in this parish, the only one I have heard of being observed during my residence here; swans sometimes pass over the town, but do not settle here; wild-geese are very frequently to be found in the parish during the autumn and winter; when an intense frost has set in for some time, vast flocks of wild-geese, of a smaller size than what are commonly found here, pass over the bay of Peterhead in one direction, half-way betwixt the manse and the town of Peterhead, one flock succeeding another, during the greatest part of the day; they all pass to the northward, but where they settle at that time is uncertain; it is supposed they go to some *lochs* in the Highlands, which never freeze. Solan geese



do not reside here, but are frequently to be seen, and are often caught with bait. There is a great variety of other sea-fowl, which are common on the east coast. Great numbers of wild-duck, are to be found in the parish; muirfowl are to be got in the moors; partridges, snipes, and plovers are in great plenty; the smaller birds, which are to be found in neighbouring parishes, are numerous. The cuckoo and corn-rail generally appear in the months of April and May, and are seldom heard after the month of August. The lapwing generally arrives in February or March, and leaves this country in the end of autumn; lapwings of late have been observed to reside in this part of the country all winter; the woodcock makes his appearance about the end of harvest; they arrive here very lean, and in a few days become very fat; there can be little doubt of their coming from Norway and the east country; they are generally observed first on the east coast. If there be any doubts of their coming from the east country, they may be removed by a fact, of which I was informed by a gentleman of veracity. About 50 years ago, he was in company with one of the proprietors of the loch of Strathbeg, about 10 miles north of this place, in the parish of Lonmay, which at that time was intended to be drained, and which they had been surveying. In the evening, after sunset, before it was quite dark, he heard a great noise, like the fluttering of a flock of birds, and saw something like a cloud before him; on examining more particularly, he found a very large flock of woodcocks perfectly exhausted, and not able to stir from the place where they had settled; they were likewise entirely emaciated.

A few weeks ago, during the severest part of the winter, (1795), I observed a strange bird, which I had never seen here before; it was about the size of a corn-rail, had a long bill, with long legs, some red spots on its head, the



plumage of a corn-rail, with a short tail. The frost was very intense, and it seemed to wish to take shelter about the offices of the manse; it did not fly, but ran so fast that I could not catch it.

*Population.*—In considering the number of people in this parish, I include the town as well as the country. The population of each at different periods is as follows:

1764. Town of Peterhead, males,	-	530	
Ditto, females,	-	736	
		<hr/>	1266
1764. Country, males,	-	553	
Ditto, females,	-	601	
		<hr/>	1154
Total in the parish,	-	-	<hr/> 2420
1764. Families in town,	-	-	361
Ditto in country,	-	-	262
			<hr/>
Total families *,	-	-	623
1764. Episcopal in town,	-	-	500
Ditto in country,	-	-	142
			<hr/>
Total Episcopal,	-	-	642

*N. B.* In the sea-town of Boddam, which is part of the country population, there were, families, 41; males, 80; females, 94; total, 174.

1769. Town of Peterhead, males,	-	640	
Ditto, females,	-	878	
		<hr/>	1518
1769. Country, males,	-	589	
Ditto, females,	-	599	
		<hr/>	1188
Total in the parish,	-	-	<hr/> 2706
			1769.

\* By families is not meant houses; for in many houses, in the town particularly, there are several families.



1769.	Families in town,	-	-	413
	Families in country,	-	-	276
	Total families,	-	-	689
1769.	Episcopals in town,	-	-	553
	Ditto country,	-	-	147
	Total Episcopals,	-	-	700

*N. B.* In the sea-town of Boddum, always reckoned part of the country, in 1769, there were 93 males, and 92 females, total 185; families 45. In the whole parish there were about 346, under 7 or 8 years of age.

In the town of Peterhead in 1790, the population was as follows;

1790.	Town of Peterhead, males,	-	1097
	Ditto, females,	-	1453
	Total in the town,	-	2550
	Under the age of 2 years,	-	104
	From 2 to 5,	-	165
	From 5 to 10,	-	272
	From 10 to 20,	-	502
	From 20 to 30,	-	368
	From 30 to 40,	-	320
	From 40 to 50,	-	350
	From 50 to 60,	-	209
	From 60 to 70,	-	175
	From 70 to 80,	-	59
	80, and upwards,	-	26
	Total,	-	2550

There



There was alive in 1790, and she is not yet dead, a poor woman, who declared she was then 105 years old, and a few days ago told me she was now 109 years of age. This declaration appears to be sufficiently authenticated from answers she gives to questions respecting past events, and other collateral circumstances. She is by no means decrepit, as one might naturally expect; she still continues to travel through the country as a beggar, and says, the only uneasiness she feels, is a small degree of weariness from carrying her meal bag, which is generally pretty full. She has the appearance of being only betwixt 70 and 80 years of age. When the last list of the inhabitants of the town of Peterhead in 1790 was taken, there were two persons from 90 to 95 years of age, one person of 87, one of 86, two of 85, and 21 from 80 to 85. In the same list the females exceed the males 336; that is, they are nearly as 13½ to 10. The number of houses was about 500.

The population in the country part of the parish in 1794 was as follows:

1794. Males,	-	-	-	518
Females,	-	-	-	623
Total in the country,	-	-	-	1141

In the sea-town of Boddum, always considered as part of the country, there were, females 106, males 86, total 192. Families in the country 259; of which, in the sea-town of Boddum there were 49. From the rapid progress of manufactures in the town of Peterhead since 1790, I suppose there is at present in the whole parish about 4100.

*Dr Webster's account in 1755 questionable.*—I find in Dr Webster's report in 1755, the inhabitants of this parish are reckoned to be 2487. I have great doubts of this being accurate, and therefore have not stated it in my account of the



the population at different periods. When I was settled in 1763, I never heard of any list being taken by Dr Webster; and when I visited my parish next year, and took an accurate list both of the town and country, many in the parish were much offended at me; they had never heard of such a thing being done before, and compared my conduct to the sin of David in numbering the people. I should not have apprehended there would have been a great increase in the population, but there is no reason to suppose there would have been 60 people fewer in 1764 than in 1755, unless the long continuance of the war should have had any influence in diminishing the numbers in the parish. If Dr Webster calculated the number of the parishioners from the register of baptisms, I am certain there were no sufficient data on which he could proceed.

*Religious Sects.*—In the lists of 1764 and 1769, which were accurately taken by myself, by visiting every family in the parish, there were no Dissenters from the *Established Church* but Episcopal, that persuasion for a long time was the prevailing mode of religion in this parish, and it is still professed by the wealthiest inhabitants of the town. They were all then of the Scotch Episcopal Church; since that time they are divided into Scotch and English Episcopal. From two notes, which I have received from the ministers of both these congregations, I find there is at present nearly 1100 Episcopal. Since 1769, there were a few Roman Catholics in the parish for a few years; there are none at present with whom I am acquainted. Somewhat more than 20 years ago, a Seceder meeting-house was erected about 8 or 9 miles from this place; since that time a few Seceders have been in this parish, but they are not at present numerous; I really do not know their precise number, nor could I easily ascertain it; a church was built by them



a few years ago ; they have worship there frequently, and a congregation is collected from different parishes ; but in so far as I can discover, it has made little impression on the members of the Established Church here, who are more numerous than at any former period, if one can judge from the number of communicants, the regular progressive increase of the collections for the poor every Lord's day, and the numerous complaints for want of room in the church, which is now far from being sufficient for those who wish to attend public worship there, and many are obliged to take seats elsewhere, for want of room in the church. There have been at different times attempts to collect a congregation by Boreans and Methodists, but they have hitherto failed. In general I believe it will be found, there is less of animosity from a difference of religious sentiments in this parish, than in most parishes that are so populous, opulent, commercial, and in particular where so many manufactures are established.

*Valued and real Rent.*—The valued rent of this parish is L. 4525 : 11 : 8 Scotch money. The real rent is not easily ascertained ; I think it is from L. 2800 to L. 3000 Sterling, and is much more than double of what it was 30 years ago.

*Farming.*—There is a considerable alteration on the mode of farming during that period. Forty years ago, excepting about the town of Peterhead, there was no sown grass ; turnips and potatoes were not cultivated, and were brought by shipmasters as rarities to their families from *Norway* and *Ireland*. For some years past it has been common to export, of one crop, 1000 bolls of potatoes to *Norway* and *England* from this parish.

About the town of Peterhead crops of sown grass have been raised for these last 40 years ; the mode of management



ment at first, and many years afterwards, was very particular; a person was engaged at the rate of 10 s. to mow and cure an acre of grass. There was a great deal of work employed in this operation; it required four days to mow the grass; it was permitted to lie in the swarth several days, afterwards carefully exposed to the sun for a considerable time, and then put into small cocks; these were turned over regularly every other fair day, to bask in the sun, several weeks passed before it was thought out of danger, and then put into a rick, or carried to the corn-yard. This practice continued till Dr Anderson's method of curing hay was published; since that time there are many instances of large fields of hay being entirely out of danger in the course of eight days, after beginning to mow the grass, without any exposure to the sun, excepting what is unavoidable in reducing the number of cocks. I wish I could say the practice was universal. There are many instances which might be mentioned of good farming in this parish, both by the proprietors and farmers, at some particular times; and in many places the land is in a very high state of cultivation. At present I see no steady plan of good husbandry, and in particular no proper rotation of crops; there is not an acre of wheat nor of lin in the parish; very little fallow, and very little expence bestowed on liming or dunging, though both lime and dung may be had in sufficient quantity, and on moderate terms, compared with those in other places.

Thirty years ago persons were hired to carry the dung of the town of Peterhead to the sea; it was considered as a nuisance, and might have been obtained by any farmer without paying any price for it; it has for many years been purchased at a pretty high price, and some of it carried into neighbouring parishes; but still there is a great deal neglected, and cast into the sea.

It



It will naturally be enquired how this should happen. The first obstacle is prejudice; the second, poverty; the third, manufactures; and the fourth, the heritors not residing on their estates, granting proper leases, nor looking out for some tenants of experience, enterprise, and wealth, who might set an example to those around them. The greatest part of the tenants are natives of this parish, bred as farmers by their parents, who, from the lowness of their rents, were enabled to support their families, and pay their rents with the old mode of farming; and they seldom think of looking farther than the present time, to provide something for their family, or against any disaster that may befall them; the rents have been raised, and with difficulty are paid by the present tenants, not, in my opinion, by the produce of their crops, but by the money received for manufactures by the females in their families, an accidental high price for cattle for several years, and employing their horses to lead peats to the town of Peterhead in summer, when they might be more properly employed in fallowing a few acres of their farm, and carrying lime and dung. The truth is, a great part of the best land in this parish requires a great deal of lime and dung, from the stiffness and nature of the soil, to make it mellow, and fit to produce proper crops; but when this is done, it will produce as weighty crops as any land in the country, and may be very productive by a proper rotation of crops for many years, without receiving any manure.

There are a considerable number of fields in sown grass in the parish; the crops are generally oats, bear, (no barley), pease or beans, or pease and beans mixed together.

The lands, unless when broken up out of ley, are dunged for bear; afterwards two crops of oats are taken, sometimes a crop of pease, and then dunged for bear; formerly there was a great quantity of small oats sown; this is mostly



given up. There are still some brocked oats, but there is now more attention paid to the nature of the feed; Blainf-lie, and what is called the Chief Baron's oats are in repute, and frequently purchased for feed.

There are a great number of *bawks* in the parish which remain untouched; 30 years ago, on an estate within a mile of the town of Peterhead, I am informed it was an article in the leases of the tenants not to break them up. They were called *meadow* ground, and their cattle pastured on them in summer. There are a number of inclosures, mostly of earthen fences, with a ditch in the inside, which is found with some attention to be a sufficient fence.

There are some earthen fences, with a thorn-hedge. The thorns are much neglected; I have no doubt of their thriving here with proper attention. There are a few instances of the thorns being a complete defence, without the least attention being paid to them since they were planted. There are several with stone dikes on one gentleman's estate, who at one time was at considerable pains in improving his farm. About the town of Peterhead, and in some other parts of the parish, there are a considerable number of inclosures, partly of stone, and partly an earthen fence, called here a half dike; but where stones can easily be had, they are the completest fence, and in many respects preferable to any other mode of inclosing. Earthen fences can be built from 2 d. to 3 d. *per* yard; faced with stone, four feet high, 6 d.; complete stone fences of the same height at 1 s. Sterling.

The size of the farms is so various, that it is not easy to ascertain what may be the average rent. They are in general from L. 2 to L. 50 or L. 60 Sterling. There are only three above L. 100, and one farmer pays rent nearly to the extent of L. 200. These large farms are not under the immediate management of the principal tacksmen; and to an intelligent farmer, nothing will more quickly convey a just  
idea



idea of the state of agriculture in this parish, than the irregular size of the farms, which are determined more by local circumstances, than a general spirit for improvement.

*Rent of Land.*—In the country part of the parish I do not think there is any estate which yields above 12 s. at an average *per* acre, and there are not many that can be estimated at 10 s. The lands in the vicinity of the town of Peterhead let at from L. 1, 10 s. to four guineas each acre. Here there is a spur to industry, and in consequence great exertions are made, and very weighty crops are raised, particularly of potatoes, bear, and grass. There is scarce a day-labourer or manufacturer who does not raise potatoes, by taking a few falls of ground, from 4 d. to 1 s. each fall, trenching and hoeing the ground, and taking up the potatoes, with his own hands. He is employed about this work, after he has spent the day at his ordinary employment, which tends to promote his health, gives a wholesome nourishment to his family, and enables him to go on at his sedentary business at home with more animation and spirit. In consequence of the general attention bestowed on raising potatoes, I think the manner of managing that crop is as well understood here, as in any other part of the kingdom, and as weighty crops are raised as in any other place. The ground is generally trenched out of ley, sometimes after it has carried one crop of oats, without any manure; by frequent hoeing, the weeds are kept down in summer, and the potatoes are taken up with a spade. The expence of the management of one acre, exclusive of rent and seed, is not less than five guineas; but it is not uncommon to have above 50 bolls, of 32 stone Dutch weight each boll, from an acre. An ordinary crop is estimated at 40 bolls, which are generally sold at 8 s. *per* boll; and I am acquainted with repeated instances of eight acres in one person's possession



season yielding a crop in that proportion. The potatoe most cultivated here is the kidney, planted at the distance of 12 inches each way, sometimes 10 and 12 inches. Sometimes they are liable to the *curt*, but not frequently.

There is always an excellent crop of bear and grafs immediately after the potatoes; the grafs frequently fails the second and third year, but the ground may be afterwards trenched for potatoes; and with a rotation of the same crops, the same process continued for many years, without any more dung or lime, where the land has been previously brought into good order by proper tith and manure; at least I have seen this fairly tried in different fields, without the ground being injured. The common practice is, to trench out of ley for potatoes, the next crop bear, and the third crop grafs; a judicious farmer, however, recommends from his own experience, to take first a crop of oats out of ley; next a crop of potatoes, and then sow bear and grafs-seeds, and by this means he thinks the grafs will remain longer. In consequence of this advice, I have tried one field in this manner; the grafs had an excellent appearance last autumn, after the bear was cut down, and bids fair for a good crop next season, and confirming the observation I have received.

Turnips, before potatoes were introduced, were sown, and the next crop bear and grafs-seeds; on the lands, within two miles of the town of Peterhead, they are not found in general to answer; there is sometimes a full crop of turnips, but the bear crop generally fails; this is imputed to poaching the ground in carrying off the turnips, which is probably the case, as the clay being near the surface, the water stands in pools all winter, and chills the ground; perhaps by a careful hand pulling the turnips, and carrying them off the field, this inconvenience might be obviated; this however has not been tried.



In a word, a general mode of good husbandry being introduced, must depend upon the proprietors of the land giving long leases, encouragement for houses and improvements, parcelling out their farms in proper lots, (for without this there can be no proper rotation of crops), abolishing thirlage to their mills, which is the most injudicious tax on improvement that ever was introduced, and introducing two or three substantial farmers from the Lothians, or Carse of Gowrie, on their own terms, who would soon convince their neighbours by their example, of the great improvement that may be made in this parish, as the soil is excellent, and there is easy access to manures of every kind.

It must be acknowledged there are strong reasons for this plan not having been adopted hitherto; many of the heritors have but moderate incomes; they cannot afford to lower their rents; they are ready to accept of the highest offer; the present tenants are unwilling to relinquish the place of their nativity, and promise a rent which is more than they can easily pay, from the old mode of farming; but which, by the money acquired from manufactures, and letting out their horses, they continue to practise, and struggle with poverty, and the difficulty of supporting their credit; but there are, and have been more opulent proprietors, who have seldom shown any inclination to introduce some farmers capable of setting a good example, with such encouragement as would induce and enable them to settle in this parish. In the neighbourhood of the town of Peterhead, there are crops of bear from 12 to 16 bolls *per* acre; eight bolls, however, is reckoned a great crop. There are instances of from 300 to 450 stone weight of hay (20 lb. Dutch each stone) produced from one acre; 200 stone is reckoned a good crop; 50 bushels of rye-grass seed are frequently produced from one acre; I am likewise acquainted  
with



with 63 stone weight of skutched lint being produced from one acre. There is, however, a great prejudice against this crop in this parish; it is thought to exhaust the soil more than any other crop. The expences are heavy, from few persons being acquainted with the different parts of the management of it; and there is no lint-mill within six miles of the town.

It is not easily settled what may be the average from one acre of oats in the parish; I scarcely think it can be called four bolls; from six to eight bolls is reckoned a very weighty crop; but there are many fields sown with oats, which do not pay feed and labour. One farmer in this parish, who has lately taken a large farm of above 230 acres, and has at present above 100 acres in his own possession, candidly told me a few weeks ago, that from 12 bolls of oats which he sowed last crop, (and that crop was in general very rich elsewhere), there was only produced 20 bolls, and of crop 1793, he had not three returns. The soil in general, however, is calculated to produce weighty crops of oats, and of a good quality, and will seldom fail to do it, unless when injured by previous bad management. A gentleman, who had a small estate within three miles of the town, broke up a field of ley, which had been limed about 12 or 14 years ago, and had carried some crops of grain after it was limed; he took three crops of oats successively without any manure; and in 1793, from the field, which consists of six acres, he reaped 60 bolls; it was not sown down with grass-seeds, but last year he drew above L. 1 each acre for the natural grass, great part of which was so luxuriant as to be cut for hay. I do not mention this with a view to recommend the mode of management, but to shew the nature of the soil.

I am likewise acquainted with another small field, about two miles from the town, the produce of which, with the  
rotation



rotation of crops, I had often observed with surprise, and had at first set down from recollection, but which I now insert in the words of the tenant, who is still alive, and gave me the account in writing: "On my farm there was a field of four acres, which, for 25 years during my residence there, yielded alternately full crops of grain, viz. beans, bear, and oats, without any manure; I have reason to think my predecessor, for 5 or 7 years immediately before my entry, employed it in the same manner." The number of bolls from each acre was never ascertained, but the field always attracted my attention, as producing the richest crop in the neighbourhood, before any improvement was made on the lands near the town of Peterhead.

In a word, I am satisfied the greatest part of the parish is capable of the highest degree of cultivation, and I hope soon shall arrive at it.

Sea-sand has only begun to be tried last year; on the sea-coast, to the northward, for upwards of 2½ miles, it has been used for some time with great success, and is even preferred to lime; it may truly be called shell-sand, and is more calcareous than what is found on the shore in this parish.

It is not possible to ascertain the precise quantity of grain raised in this parish; I am apt to think it is not sufficient for the subsistence of the inhabitants.

Gardening is in its infancy, and is making very slow progress.

Considerable attention is paid to the *dairy* by several persons in the parish, though in general little attention is paid to the breed of the cows. There are a few of an excellent shape, and they give large quantities of milk, from 8 to 12 pints each. Six pints, I am apt to think, is more than the average from the cows in the parish. There is butter and cheese of an excellent quality, the butter gives from 6 d. to 8 d. the lb. 20 ounces Dutch, or nearly 22

ounces



ounces English, being the ancient Scotch trone pound; cheese from 3 s. to 5 s. the stone, 20 lb. Dutch each stone. I know of three cows for several weeks one summer, yielding each of them daily 1 lb. of butter, 16 ounces Dutch each pound; and of one cow, which calved about Christmas, yielding 11 lb. of butter in five days, the pound consisting of 16 ounces; she gave from 8 to 9 pints of milk, and was fed with hay and cabbage. A farmer, who has an extensive farm, and is very attentive to his dairy, informs me, that with good management "A cow will, " during the summer, be worth about L. 5 Sterling. I " have seven cows, which give about 8 pints of milk each " day, and yield me profit in that proportion."

*Leases.*—The leases are in general for 19 years; some for that period, and the life of the tenant; there are a few for two or three nineteen years, with one or two lives. On the farms, which have the longest leases, the lands are in the highest state of cultivation.

*Planting.*—There is very little planting in the parish. There are some trees at Invernettie and Little Cocklaw; some young timber at Alehousehill, Blackhouse, and Grange. At the manse, within 200 or 300 yards of the sea, there is a thriving plantation of elder and willows lately raised. I should not have mentioned this trifling circumstance if I had any merit in raising the plantation; last year there was a shoot of elder, the growth of the summer, of five feet in length. It would add much to the ornament of this country, if heritors would be at some pains in raising such trees as are suited to the climate; formerly there were large forests in the parish.

*Ploughs.*



*Ploughs.*—The parish was formerly divided into 52 *ploughgates*, or, I suppose, into as many divisions as 52 ploughs could easily manage in the old style of farming. At present, in the town and country, I do not think they exceed 90, though this cannot be easily ascertained.

There are a few English ploughs drawn by two horses, or two oxen; in general four, sometimes six horses, are employed in dragging a Scotch plough; many ploughs are drawn often by two horses, with a cow and a young steer; I have even seen, and I observed it last year, a plough with one horse, a cow and a young steer.

*Harrows, Fanners, and Carts.*—There are a few drag-harrows. Till lately, many single harrows were used with timber tynes. They are still in general too light for the soil.

There are no threshing-machines. Fanners have been lately introduced, and are now pretty numerous.

The carts in general are very small, and of a bad construction. A boll of coals, weighing 36 stone Dutch weight, is reckoned a sufficient load for one horse and cart when hired. There are a few carts of a better construction.

*Horses, Cattle, Sheep, and Hogs.*—There are in the whole parish about 400 horses, for the purposes of ploughing, riding, and carriages; 900 cattle, and 590 sheep; the sheep are mostly on the confines of the moor and moss, and have a very scanty pasture. In summer, a few ewes and lambs are kept on tether, scattered through the parish, and excellently fed. Horses are generally of a small size, and there are few in the parish of considerable value.

Excepting what is fed at the mills, hogs are very rare in the parish.



*Resident Heritors.*—The number of proprietors at present, besides the feuers in the town of Peterhead, is eleven; there are five of these residing in the parish. The Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hospital at Edinburgh have considerably more than one-third of the rent of the parish; and three of the residing heritors have not much above L. 100 rent.

The greatest part of this parish belonged once to the ancient family of the Earl Marischal; at present, his representatives possess no property here. There is not an estate which has remained in the family of any person, who had lands in the beginning of this century, excepting part of the lands of *Invernettie*, half of which is the property of a collateral branch of the original purchaser from Earl Marischal in the beginning of this century, and one small estate called *Downie-hills*, which was originally a *wadset* from the Marischal family, and now the absolute property of Dr Thomas Livingston, physician at Aberdeen, who, by his mother, is the representative of an ancient family of the name of Robertson, which long enjoyed this estate; and one of them of the name of Thomas, about 60 or 70 years ago, the fifteenth Thomas Robertson, who possessed the *wadset*, writes a song to be found in the second volume of *Allan Ramsay's* Collection, in which he invites the *Stirling*, the name of his mistress, to take up her residence there, concluding with the following lines:

I'll bring thee where I will devise  
Such various ways to pleasure thee,  
The velvet fog thou wilt despise,  
When on the *downy hills* with me.

(Signed) T. R.

Excepting



Excepting the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hospital, who as a corporate society, are supposed never to die, there is only at present one heritor, the Earl of Aberdeen, alive, and possessing the same estate he enjoyed when I was settled in this parish about 30 years ago.

Sic transit gloria mundi!

*Roads.*—The roads are not kept in good repair; the statute-labour appears to be insufficient for that purpose; and good roads are scarce to be expected till turnpikes are introduced.

*Crops 1782, 1784.*—The crop of 1782 was as defective in this parish as in other parts of Scotland; and without very great efforts, both of a public and private nature, many would have perished for want of food.

Besides a large quantity of meal and seed-oats, imported by the inhabitants of the town of Peterhead, and sold at prime cost, with a considerable quantity of meal sent by Government, partly *gratis*, and partly at a low price, there was taken from a small capital of the poor's funds L. 20 Sterling; collections were made in the different churches, and voluntary assessments raised from the greatest part of the heritors; amounting in whole to L. 110 : 6 : 5 Sterling, which was distributed by a committee of the different heritors, who had assessed themselves, the ministers of the different churches, and the elders of the town, to 223 families, consisting of 566 persons, in different proportions, to the extent of 1 s. Sterling to each family weekly, till a supply was obtained from the next crop.

There was no person who died of famine, nor did any appear to have suffered in their health; on the contrary, the sobriety and industry that were indispensably requisite



quisite in many families to procure the necessaries of life, rendered complaints of bad health much less frequent than usual.

Some discoveries were made in consequence of the late harvest and scanty crop of 1782.

Bear was sown earlier than usual in 1783, that there might be access to the crop as soon as possible ; instead of sowing that grain as formerly in the month of May, it was sown in the end of March and beginning of April ; the practice has since continued, and it is thought to be, both as to the quantity and quality of the grain, an advantage, when the ground is in good order and free from weeds. During the month of April, there is a sufficiency of moisture in the soil ; but in the month of May, particularly the latter part of it, when the drought is severe, the greatest part of the seed often remains in the ground without springing till the later rains, which frequently do not fall till the middle or end of July, in consequence of which the crop is very defective, and unequally ripened ; when there is sufficient moisture in the ground, it is not reckoned too late to sow bear on the last days of the month of May, but this is uncertain, and it is of great importance to observe the proper season for sowing bear, which does not meet with that attention which it deserves.

From a course of experiments made by Dr Anderson on different species of grain of crop 1782, he found that oats when fresh, though only half-ripened, if once they germinate, will produce as weighty crops as oats fully ripened.

In this parish there was a field in 1782, which produced from 20 to 30 bolls of oats, which were not frosted, but were never fully ripened ; they continued always green, and were cut down in the end of November, with their colour very little changed. The greatest part of them was sold for seed-oats, nearly at the same price with oats fully ripened,



ripened, and imported from England. A gentleman in the neighbourhood, who was always attentive to the interest of his tenants, by the advice of his overseer, purchased about 18 bolls of these oats for his estate, and afterwards came on purpose to thank the person who sold them, for the fresh oats his tenants had received, which, he said, had answered better than what had the appearance of being much riper and fuller, but which had suffered from the frost. Part of the same oats were sown in this parish, and there was no apparent difference of produce next crop, between them and oats of the best quality that had been imported from England; they were only sown a little thicker than other oats. Two or three bolls of them were sent to the mill, and a boll scarce yielded five pecks of meal.

This strongly shows the fallacy of arguing *a priori* in any thing relative to agriculture, as well as in other branches of natural philosophy. It is not supposed, that such oats will be preferred for seed in ordinary years; but in years of scarcity, and similar to 1782, the fact deserves attention.

There were some peculiarities in crop 1784, which deserve being mentioned. During the ordinary season for sowing oats, which is from the beginning of March to the end of April, there were constant showers of rain; the fields were never dry; the greatest part of the farmers delayed sowing till the seed-time was nearly elapsed; the grain was sown, but the rains continuing, the greatest part was never covered with mould, the ground being much poached with the horses and cattle in attempting, and barely attempting to harrow it; and great fears were entertained concerning the crop. The seed, however, that was not covered, from the great moisture, all germinated, and took root; and there was the richest crop, both of grain and fodder that has been known in this century; it has often since been compared with crop 1775, which was a dry season,



and produced a very rich crop, with very little fodder, and I find the preference has in general been given to crop 1784. The harvest was likewise rainy and late; the oats were filled, but in general never ripened, or rather were never of a proper yellow colour; many farmers were too impatient; some permitted their oats to stand all the month of November, and were sensible they ripened more in that month than at any former period. One farmer in this parish dismissed his reapers in the end of October; he left one large inclosure where the oats were quite green; they filled perfectly during the month of November, and gave as much meal as any oats on his farm. I could mention many other instances in other years of the propriety of not being too hasty in cutting down oats before they are completely filled, though the season is late. On the whole, there never was a more plentiful crop than in 1784. Meal was selling about Candlemas next year at L. 8 Scots; before next harvest it could have been purchased below 10 s. each boll, the last crop exceeding every person's expectation, and what was more extraordinary, the oats that were green, and had been reserved as of least value, producing as much meal as those that appeared to be fully ripened.

The greatest part of the pease of this crop was entirely lost, and never taken off the ground for want of good weather to dry the straw. I had myself that year a field of from six to seven acres in pease and beans, four acres in beans, and two and a half in pease; the pease were sown in the beginning of March, and completely covered, by getting the ground harrowed; from that time to the end of April I only found one day for sowing my beans; they were sown, but I could only, from the constant rains, give the ground a slight touch with the harrow; the greatest part of the beans being still uncovered, I collected a few boys, each with a stick in his hand, and pushed every bean

we



we discovered a few inches below the ground; there was a most luxuriant crop of pease and beans, both of grain and fodder. The pease, after they were cut down, were frequently covered with snow, and in turning them a great part of the grain was lost; I waited till near the end of November, and seeing no prospect of preserving them in the ordinary manner, I took three Norway trees, of 10 or 12 feet in length, tied them at the top with a rope, and extended them at the *base*; the pease were built round the trees on the outside, four small arches were left at the bottom, all was hollow within the trees, and open at the top before the rick was thatched; the air rushed in, went to the top, and in a few days the straw, which was formerly wet, was as dry in the inside as on the outside; the whole crop of pease was contained in three ricks; the grain that remained, and straw, was entirely preserved; and if the experiment had been tried sooner, the whole of the grain would have been saved. After the pease were threshed out, I offered the straw for sale in 1785, at 3 d. each stone; I only sold at that time a few stones; in 1786, there was a scarcity of fodder; I sold the pease-straw at 4 d. each stone; the farmers had suspicions at first of its being spoiled from age, and rotten, and were slow in purchasing it; it was however soon sold, and the person who bought the last part of it came to me smiling, and said he had not bought cheaper or fresher fodder that winter, and that his horses appeared to be exceedingly fond of it. This method of preserving pease is very simple, but notwithstanding of this circumstance, and though it is perfectly understood, and frequently practised in the higher parts of the county, where there is plenty of timber, and was pretty generally known in this corner at the time, I have never seen it repeated, and I am acquainted with many instances of pease being entirely lost since that year. The want of timber

can



can be no excuse ; as much more is wanted at most farms in the course of the year, and it does not suffer by being employed in the manner I have mentioned.

Many, by hurrying in their beans to the corn-yard in 1789, lost them and the fodder. I delayed touching mine till the last day of November ; and in the night-time, with moon light, and a brisk breeze of wind from the west, got them all out of danger ; beans are a hardy grain, and will remain long in the field, without receiving injury from the weather. I know no part of husbandry in this parish in which farmers are more apt to err, than in the management of their beans, by taking them too quickly off the field ; if not sufficiently dry, and even blackened, the fodder and grain are both spoiled.

The soil in this parish, whether it be a sandy or clay soil, is excellently calculated for raising beans. They are all sown in the broadcast ; in this manner they have more fodder, but less grain, than if they were sown in drills and hoed ; but the fodder is so valuable for horses, (in my opinion nearly equal to hay and oats), that there are great inducements to continue this practice. Next to turnips, potatoes, or fallow, they are the best preparing crop for grass. It is rare to see beans in the higher parts of the county ; but they deserve to be introduced, as I know few crops more valuable.

*Births.*—It is not possible to ascertain the number of births from the session-register, as many people decline entering their childrens names in the record. Since the proposal of a Statistical Account, I have inserted in a private register all that I have baptized. The result is as follows, for three years, from the 31st March 1791 to the same date 1794, 136 males, and 109 females ; total 245 ; at an average each year, nearly 82. From all the information



I can receive, there may be from 20 to 25 more baptized in the parish each year.

*Burials.*—There is no register of burials kept by the session; I have, however, requested the present sexton, since he entered on his office, to mark accurately every burial in the church-yard; and to keep a book for that purpose, that he may know when it is proper to open a grave where a corpse has formerly been laid down. This register, of which I keep a copy, is now before me; and from the 20th January 1773 to the 20th January 1795, there have been buried 1425; average for 22 years, nearly 65. For the first eleven years during this period, there were buried 672, average 61; for the last eleven 753, average each year 68. This, however, does not accurately state the number of deaths in this parish; many strangers are buried here, and many are carried out of this place to other places. The sexton, however, assures me, there are more carried out of this parish than brought hither, owing to the number of new inhabitants who reside in the town of Peterhead.

*Small-pox.*—In 1774, I find there were 72 burials: of this number 27 died of the small pox: in 1791, there were 86 burials, and of this number 34 died of the same disorder: Inoculation has been introduced here for these last 25 years; but the practice is far from being general.

*Marriages.*—It is still more difficult to ascertain the number of marriages. I have kept for several years a list of persons, I have married; but this only happens when the bride resides in this parish, and is a member of my congregation; I have a note before me from the clerk, from the 22d of May 1791 to the 1st of March 1794, of proclamations during that period, they amount to 84; so that at an



average each year they may be estimated at 28 pair. Neither does this ascertain the number of marriages, as the bans of marriage are published in the parish where either the bride or bridegroom resides. I find from the 23d June 1791 to the same date in 1794, I have married only 54 pair; average each year during this period, 18.

*Ministers.*—From all the information I have received, there have been here five Presbyterian ministers since the Revolution, Mr Guthrie, Mr Brown, Mr Farquhar, Mr Walker, and the writer of the present account. Mr Brown left this parish, and was afterwards settled at Behelvie, in the presbytery of Aberdeen: Mr Farquhar went to Chapel of Garioch, in the presbytery of Garioch, and died only a few years ago. He was father of Mr John Farquhar, late minister of Nigg, the author of two volumes of sermons, which are so generally and deservedly esteemed. They receive an additional value from the character of the author, whose life was a transcript of the sentiments he published. He died at a very early age; the warmth of his affection was the cause of his death; having overheated himself in going to see a friend, who was ill of a fever, he was in a few days seized with the same disorder, which soon proved fatal:

Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit,  
Nulli flebilior quam MINI.

My predecessor was father likewise of Mr Walter Farquhar, so eminent in London for his extensive practice and skill in the medical profession. Both his sons were born in this parish. The present incumbent was settled here in 1763.

*Living.*



*Living.*—The living, by a decret of the court of teinds in 1792, which is not yet allocated on the different heritors, consists of 5 chalders of meal, 3 chalders of bear, and L. 41 : 13 : 4 Sterling of money, in which is included L. 8, 6 s. 8 d. for communion-elements.

The glebe consists of different patches of ground, in all betwixt 8 and 9 acres, part of the soil very indifferent, but now rendered more valuable by some improvements of the present incumbent; besides a garden, and site for the manse and offices, and a privilege of pasturage on the links before the manse.

*Manse.*—The manse is very old; was burnt in 1740; rebuilt a little afterwards by the last incumbent, on a compromise with the heritors; the walls of the former manse, which were built with mortar, I am informed still remain. The whole of the house is very insufficient; the offices were built about 16 years ago, and with repairs to the manse, which were only about L. 5, cost the heritors L. 90 Sterling, the whole that has been paid by them during my residence here. It has cost me a much greater sum for some additional accommodation, and keeping the manse and offices in repairs, which are renewed every year.

*Church.*—The church was built in 1771, in the Kirk-town, and is an elegant building 78 feet long, and 39 feet broad over the walls, which are of a proper height to admit of the galleries being sufficiently raised.

From the position of the pulpit, and the arrangement of the seats, both in the galleries and on the ground-floor, it is the most convenient place of worship with which I am acquainted. The plan was sent by one of the heritors residing at Edinburgh, and was got from an eminent architect there.

There



There has been a great alteration in the style of building churches in the Synod of Aberdeen since its erection, but without attending to the strict proportion and simplicity of this plan, which might serve as a model for any church, the pulpit being placed at an equal distance from the east and west end of the north wall, and every person both seeing and hearing the minister. The whole expence of the building was only L. 520 Sterling; and a small fund being obtained, by the rent of a few seats, which were fixed after the plan was completed, at present under the management of the kirk-session, the heritors have paid nothing for repairs ever since the church was built.

The Scotch and English Episcopal and Seceders have each a very convenient place of worship in the town of Peterhead. There is an organ in each of the Episcopal chapels.

*Poor.*—There are no assessments on the heritors for the subsistence of the poor. They are supported chiefly from collections in the church, which are very liberal. When I was settled in 1763, there was about L. 90 Sterling in the box; the money at present settled on interest does not much exceed that sum. Thirty years ago, ordinary collections every Lord's day were from 7 s. to 8 s.; they are now from 18 s. to L. 1. This, with the ordinary perquisites, under the management of the kirk-session, and the interest of a small capital, affords considerable relief to the poor, who for some years have varied from 70 to 80. There are few beggars in the parish, excepting on Friday, on which there is always a market in the town of Peterhead: many on that day come in from the neighbouring parishes. At the communion, which is dispensed once every year, there is collected from L. 16 to L. 17 Sterling. A collection of L. 5 Sterling is sent each year to the Infirmary



firmly of Aberdeen; and frequently very large collections are obtained in the church for the relief of particular families, whose situation from some unexpected disaster requires immediate relief. Two annual distributions are made in the months of May and November, besides giving largely at the communion, and on every Lord's day, to persons, whose situation appears to the session so indigent as not to admit of a delay till the ordinary time for distributing the poor's money.

*School.*—The schoolmaster's salary, for a long space of time, was 13 bolls 3 firloths of meal, from the country part of the parish, and L. 3 : 6 : 8 Sterling from the town. During the last vacancy, which happened in 1788, the town of Peterhead petitioned the heritors of the parish to permit them to get a schoolmaster settled by a comparative trial, to teach in concert with another schoolmaster, settled by Dr Anderson's trustees, who have the appointment of several charity schools; that these two might form a kind of *academy* for teaching English, Latin, Greek, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping, the elements of mathematics and navigation; and engaged that if this scheme were adopted, they would advance the schoolmaster's salary to L. 15, besides the meal payable by the country part of the parish, and give both the schoolmasters places for teaching in the town-house.

The heritors granted this petition; Mr Adamson was found best qualified on a comparative trial, and presented by the town of Peterhead. His salary at present is 13 bolls 3 firloths of meal from the country part of the parish, L. 10 from the town of Peterhead, and L. 5 from the merchant's box; he has likewise a fee of L. 2 : 15 : 6 as session-clerk. The whole of his emoluments, with school-dues and perquisites as session-clerk, will not exceed L. 35 Sterling.



ling. His colleague, Mr Smith, has L. 20 Sterling of salary. Mr Adamson teaches Latin and English, Mr Smith writing and arithmetic, in separate schools. The number of scholars who attend both schools is from 40 to 50, and is seldom more. There are none at present who are taught Greek, or any part of the mathematics, though Mr Adamson is perfectly qualified to teach these, and every other part allotted to him; he is a young man of very great abilities. Mr Smith is likewise very assiduous in his department. There is besides another schoolmaster in the town, who teaches writing, arithmetic, book-keeping and Latin, without any salary. He has at present from 40 to 50 boys, and 17 girls. There are likewise in town 9 women, who teach the younger children reading, and the girls knitting and sewing; their number of scholars at present in winter is about 150, and in summer they are much more numerous; only one of them has any salary, and she has only L. 2, 5 s. Sterling from the parents, whose children attend her school. There is also in the sea-town of Boddom a schoolmistress, who teaches about 20 children to read English. Mr Shand, organist to the Scotch Episcopal chapel, teaches to play on the harpsichord and guitar in the town of Peterhead, but does not meet with that encouragement which his talents and character deserves.

Attempts have been made to improve the church-music both in the Established Church and in the Episcopal chapels; but the improvement is very slow, and from whatever cause it may proceed, a taste for music is much less frequent on the sea-coast in Buchan than in the higher parts of the county.

*Students at the University.*—Mr Adamson, the schoolmaster has attended the Divinity Hall for several years, and is the only Student from this place at present at any University.



University. I do not recollect above seven or eight who have been at an University from this parish since 1763.

*Fuel.*—The country part of this parish is supplied with peat from the mosses; the town, partly with peats, and partly with coals. From the great prejudice in favour of peats, the mosses are nearly exhausted, and the whole parish will soon be obliged to make use of coals. It will probably be of advantage to the farmers, who employ a great part of summer in managing and leading their peats, which might be better employed in fallowing or driving lime and dung to their farms.

*Thirlage.*—Every species of servitude is abolished, excepting thirlage to the mills, which is universally considered as a heavy burden, and a great obstacle to improvement.

*Crofters.*—There are very few crofters in the parish. Those who have large farms complain of the want of them, from the difficulty of finding servants.

*Wages.*—The wages of servants have increased very much. Thirty years ago, a man-servant could have been hired for L. 2, 10 s. Sterling in the year; they are now from L. 5 to L. 8; maid-servants were from 12 s. to 15 s. in the half-year; they are at present from L. 1 to L. 1, 10 s. Day-labourers were 8 d. each day in summer, without their victuals, they are now 1 s.; masons and wrights were 1 s. they are now 1 s. 6 d.; in harvest, reapers get 1 s. each, besides their victuals; the wages of other tradesmen and day-labourers are increased in the same proportion.



*Language.*—The language spoken in this parish is the broad Buchan dialect of the English, with many Scotticisms, and stands much in need of reformation, which it is to be hoped will soon happen, from the frequent resort of polite people to the town in summer.

The names of places in the parish seem to be derived chiefly from the English and Gaelic. Thus, *Alebouse-bill*, (a house which the family of *Raven's Craig* used to frequent as a *taVERN*), *Myreside*, *Hayfield*, *Newseat*, *Mount-Pleasant*, *Scotch-mill* are English; likewise, *Stay the Voyage*, (a place where the family of Marischal used to halt in their way from Inverugie to Peterhead), another *Stay the Voyage*, from a tenant of the former place having carried the name of his first place of residence to a house in the opposite side of the parish; *Croft-fold*, from a place of worship having been in that field before the Reformation. *Invernettie*, *Auchtiegall*, *Glendevny*, and *Balmuir*, I am informed are Gaelic; and *Blackbouse*, which was supposed to be English, I am informed, is likewise Gaelic; *Elackbouse* being derived from *Blockbouse*, which signifies a place of defence in front of a castle. The truth is, *Blackbouse*, in this parish, on the side of the *Ugie*, is opposite to the ruins of an Old Castle, which belonged to the family of the Cheynes in St Fergus, and which was their place of residence, long before the house of Inverugie was built, or they had any connexion with the family of Marischal, or Keiths of *Raven's Craig*.

*Volunteers.*—The people in general in the parish are not fond of a military life; but in the present war, when they are sensible they have every thing that is valuable at stake, many have enlisted for the army; and in the town of Peterhead, two companies of volunteers, 50 men each company, have turned out with the greatest readiness for defence



defence of the town, and more if necessary could easily have been mustered; they have likewise begun to enlist for the navy; and there is no doubt that the necessary complement of 18 seamen, or 36 landmen, will soon be found.

*Character.*—The people in the country part of the parish are in general very diligent, temperate, peaceable, and inoffensive in their manners. I know of no crime for which any person has been capitally convicted. They are very punctual in their attendance at church, and observance of divine ordinances; and their outward decency in times of public worship is very exemplary.

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#### TOWN OF PETERHEAD.

*Town.*—About a mile south of the *Ugie* stands the town of Peterhead, latitude  $57^{\circ} 30' - 33''$  N. on a peninsula, which projects into the German Ocean, and forms the easternmost point of land in Scotland; it is called *Peter's Polle* by the Dutch, and, as formerly mentioned, is supposed to be the Cape taken notice of by Ptolemy. An *Isthmus*, which connects the town with the country on the N. W. is only about 800 yards broad. The rest of the town is surrounded by the sea, which on the east part is so near the houses, that a bulwark is raised to protect them from high stream-tides.

The town, with the adjacent lands, of considerable value and extent, formerly belonged to the Abbey of Deer. In 1560, Queen Mary appointed Robert Keith, son of William 4th Earl Marischal, Commendator of Deer; in 1587, James VI. raised this Robert to the dignity of the peerage,



by the title of Lord *Altreu*, having created the Abbey lands a temporal lordship in his favour; this peerage became extinct, and the Abbey lands fell to the Earl Marischal. *Anno* 1637, William 6th Earl Marischal obtained a new charter from the Crown of the *Abbey* lands, besides the tithes great and small of the parish of Peterhead, the parsonage of the church, salmon and white-fishing. The following lands are mentioned, as situate in the parish of Peterhead: "Terras de *Lebill*, terras de *Munchisbill*, terras de *Grang*, (at present *Grange*), de *Rasbill*, (where the windmill at present stands), de *Fisherburn*, de Peterhead cum Anchoragiis ejusdem." After the forfeiture of Earl Marischal in 1715, the town, with the lands belonging to that family in the parish, were bought by a fishing company in England; which failing in 1726, sold the town and these lands to the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hospital of Edinburgh, at the price, if I am not misinformed, of L. 3000 Sterling. The rental amounted to 191 bolls of bear, 199 bolls of meal, 2 bolls of oats, and L. 80 Sterling of money, besides the feu-duty for property in Peterhead. The Governors let these lands to one tackfman at L. 245 Sterling, at which rent it remained till about 20 years ago.

A few years before that period, the Governors exposed all their property in this parish to sale, and it was purchased by a gentleman at Edinburgh for L. 10,000 Sterling, who thought the price high, and had an option to consider for some time, and relinquish the bargain if he thought proper; when the time was nearly elapsed, he gave in his renunciation, which was accepted very readily by one of the Governors, who never approved of the sale, and put the paper into the charter-chest, marking on the back of it, a *miraculous escape*. He was right in his opinion; in 1755 the rent was raised to L. 870, and in 1794 to L. 1040 Sterling.



flag, besides the money which the Governors are daily receiving for ground which is fenced off, and amounts in a few years to a very considerable sum.

The town was formed into a burgh of barony by George Earl Marischal in 1593; it was then called Keith Inch. The number of feuers to whom the charter was granted was only 14. The ground fenced out, about 3 acres; the purchase-money 3000 merks, and the mail or feu-duty L. 7, 11s. Scotch. From the boundaries of the different feus, they seem to have been placed from the Ronheads and Keith Inch, the eastern points, to the remotest extremity of what is at present called the town of Peterhead, for one of the feus is bounded by the Kirkburn, which divides the town on the south-west side from the links, where no houses are erected. The original feuers appear to have been fishers, for each of them is permitted to have a boat for white-fishing, on paying the teind-fish, and " sic as happens " to pass to far fishing, the said Earl and his foresaids shall " have such teynd thereof as the inhabitants of *Anstruther* " pay." When the number of feuers shall amount to 30 persons, they were obliged to build a tolbooth, or pay 200 merks to the Earl for building it; they were likewise engaged to build sufficient stone slated houses, 24 feet in length, and 16 in breadth, in such places as may be found most for the decoration of the burgh, and to pay L. 2 yearly till they build such houses. They were farther obliged to build and erect a bulwark in the mouth of the haven called Port Henry, (now the North Harbour), " for easement of their " seafaring vessels, and shall accomplish the same half a " year after that the said Earl hath received the *grassums* " of 20 tenants."

The town at present holds of the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hospital of Edinburgh as superiors. The Government of the town is vested in a bailie and 8 counsellors.



fellors. The bailie is named by the superiors, and has his commission from them; the counsellors are chosen annually by the feuars, at a general meeting called for that purpose; 4 of these are chosen from among the merchants, 2 from the shipmasters, and 2 from the trades. The bailie exercises his judicial authority, or legal jurisdiction, competent in a burgh of barony; and the counsellors, jointly with the bailie, have the administration of the common good of the town; the public revenue of which, about 30 years ago, did not exceed £. 135 Sterling; it is now about £. 240, consisting from the shore-dues, petty customs, and the rent of some land adjacent to the town, which was formerly a common, but now the absolute property of the feuars. The whole of this revenue is annually laid out in improving the harbour, streets, other public-works, and for the good of the town.

The town is nearly in form of a cross, and may be divided into four parts: The *Kirk-town*, *Ronheads*, *Keith Inch* or *Quansie*, and the town properly so called. A small ropery is carried on; a number of day-labourers and manufacturers reside in the Kirktown, which formerly was disjoined from, but is now almost connected with the town by one continued street. The feus extend no farther than the Kirktown to the westward, which is separated by a small rivulet from the manse and the links, where there is excellent *golfing*, and where the young men of the town, and many far advanced in life, resort for amusement. Formerly there was a fishing-boat with a crew which belonged to this part of the town, but all the boats at present belong to the Ronheads, the north east part of the town, where the fishermen, sailors, pilots, and a few shipmasters reside. Here there are 9 boats, which employ about 40 hands; all these fishermen are likewise pilots, and are therefore not so steady in catching fish as the people in Boddam; they are

very



very hardy and intrepid as pilots, go out boldly to meet ships in the greatest storms, and have the character of being as ready and discreet as any on the coast. On the Keith Inch, the north part of which is called the Greenhill, there are several excellent houses, and some respectable families. Here, on the southernmost part, is an old castle, built by George Earl Marischal in the beginning of last century. He was employed at the Court of Denmark on an embassy, and brought over the Princess of Denmark, who was married to King James VI. It is said he built this castle from a model of the palace of the King of Denmark; it has been long used as a granary and storehouse, and though the walls and roof are standing, is in a ruinous state.

Near this there is a small fort, and a guard-house, with a battery of four 12, and four 18 pounders, brought here in the course of the last war. There were once seven cannon placed at the mouth of the two harbours, besides some brass pieces in the tolbooth, which were all carried to London after the year 1715. The Keith Inch formerly at stream-tides was entirely separated from the town, the tide flowing from the North to the South Harbour. This is now prevented by a mound of earth, raised so high as never to be overflowed by the sea; on the north side of this are placed the flesh-house, a number of sheds for coals, lime, and timber, and a salt manufacture; on the south side is the warehouse, two small docks or slips for ship-building, and the South Harbour.

*Harbours.*—There are two harbours, the North and the South. The North Harbour is the oldest. There is a pier of very large stones on the north-east side, without any cement, but which seldom needs repairs; ships sometimes enter this harbour, and are laid up for the winter; in general, it is only employed by large boats from the *Murray friith*,



*frith*, and the fishing and pilot boats of Peterhead. There is 11 feet depth of water at stream-tides in this harbour. The channel is narrow.

The South Harbour is rendered much more commodious than it was formerly by the channel being deepened. There are now two excellent piers on the south and west sides of the harbour, and they form with the *Quennie*, or *Keith Inch*, on the east side, a capacious basin, where at present above 60 ships may remain in great safety, and with some additional expence in clearing the channel, and erecting another pier or quay on the east side, I am informed it may contain about 100 vessels.

The south pier, which sustains the whole force of the German Ocean, (and at some times, from the waves that break over the parapet, the appearance is very grand and tremendous), is 460 feet in length, 42 feet wide at the broadest part, 40 feet high from the foundation of the head to the top of the parapet. The west pier is 633 feet in length, the parapet-wall 325 feet; the height at the head from the foundation to the top of the parapet-wall is 26 feet.

They are both of large pieces of granite, squared and neatly dressed, and are thought of sufficient strength and firmness (with a little attention) to resist the force of the sea: the foot-path and quay is broad and commodious, and the workmanship on the whole is well executed.

The two piers, with expences in deepening the harbour, have cost the town above L. 5000 Sterling; of this they have received about L. 4000 from Government, the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hospital, and contributions from a few individuals. The depth of water is from 12 to 14 feet at stream-tides, and from 8 to 9 feet at neap-tides.

Considerable



Considerable improvements may still be made on this harbour. By carrying the south pier farther into the sea, ships of any burden that are employed in trade might find shelter here. Without extending the pier, the channel may be deepened two or three feet, and the two harbours might be joined into one, by cutting the bridge which divides the town from the Quenzie. If this was accomplished, it would save many valuable ships from being wrecked, which cannot, from strong westerly gales, fetch any of the friths, or any of the harbours betwixt them, but might reach this harbour; and if the two harbours were united, they could go out to sea with any wind, which would remove the great inconvenience to which ships are so frequently subjected by being confined in the South Harbour from contrary winds. I have seen this harbour full of ships, which were detained for upwards of six weeks by the wind blowing from the S. or S. E.

This improvement has been pointed out to the inhabitants by some engineers, whom they have consulted: there can be no doubt of its being practicable, and of its utility when executed. By an estimate from Mr John Gwyn, the whole expence for making the two piers already finished, and uniting the two harbours, was only L. 6891 : 3 : 6 Sterling; but were it three times this expence, the advantages are obviously so immensely great, that it should be attempted, and if once begun, there can be little doubt it would be executed. Perhaps it could not be easily effectuated by the inhabitants of this town; but the benefit they would receive from this improvement is so great, that I hope some time soon they will seriously think of commencing it, even if they should mortgage the whole of their town's funds for that purpose, or lend some of their private property on the security of the certain advance of revenue from the increased number of ships that would enter the harbour;



harbour; besides, it would be attended with such advantages to the trade and navigation of this island in general, that it is to be hoped, on a proper representation, it might be accomplished by a general contribution, or aid from Government, or by obtaining an act of Parliament for raising the shore-dues. The joining the two harbours was part of the original plan when the two new piers were erected. When this work was begun, they had little prospect of receiving so much money as was afterwards obtained; and from what happened then, it gives encouragement to expect that money would not be wanting, if so useful an improvement was commenced. The Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hospital are much interested in this plan being carried into effect; the rise of their rents for lands near the town, and the value of fens would be so much increased, that the advantages accruing to them cannot easily be calculated; besides the satisfaction of contributing to make Peterhead the greatest and most thriving town in the north of Scotland.

It deserves attention likewise, that in time of war, this being a head-land, is the place where privateers most frequently keep their station, and pick up ships which might find shelter here, but for want of access to a harbour, are obliged to beat up against the wind for several days.

*Mineral Well.*—A little to the west of the entrance to the South Harbour is the mineral well, the virtues of which have been known above 200 years.

It has long been called the Wine Well. The country people who resort hither in summer, and the greatest part of the inhabitants of this parish still give it the same name. Whence it should have received this appellation is not easy to say, nor is it of great importance to determine. From the water sparkling in a glass, and exhilarating the spirits,

it



It may have been compared to Champagne; but this conjecture is not supported by any record or tradition.

An analysis of this water is given by Dr Laing. From the result of his experiments, in 12 lb. avoirdupois weight of water, there are found,

Aerated iron,	-	-	3½ grains.
Muriated iron,	-	-	30¼
Muriated lime,	-	-	7
Silicious earth,	-	-	2
Gypsum,	-	-	2
Glauber's salt,	-	-	13½
Common salt,	-	-	7½
Fixed air, cubic inches,	-	-	83½

This water has long been deservedly in repute, for general debility, disorders of the stomach and bowels, flatulencies and indigestion, nervous complaints which flow from these causes, and diseases peculiar to the fair sex; and in all these disorders, I can from 30 years observation and experience affirm, I know of no remedy more efficacious, when attention is paid at the same time to regimen, exercise, and amusement, and taking now and then a gentle emetic or laxative, as circumstances may require. In most cases where the mineral water is used, the cold bath is proper, and promotes its good effects, which are an increase of appetite, strength, and spirits.

There is no disease for which people resort to the well more frequently than gravel, though with a considerable degree of hazard, as I have seen numerous instances of nephritic paroxysms brought on by the use of the water, and where calculi are formed in the kidneys or bladder, this effect is naturally to be expected.

The water, as a cleanser and tonic, may have some effect



effect in preventing the disease altogether \* ; but after a person has for some time been afflicted with it, I think the case is very different, and cannot see sufficient reasons for recommending the water but with the utmost caution. If the water, from the quantity of fixed air, is supposed to have a power to dissolve calculous concretions, fixed air may be given in any quantity, and is frequently recommended, without any of the stimulating ingredients which are found in Peterhead water ; and if it is supposed to operate as a cleanser by its diuretic qualities, liquids may be given that are less irritating.

Perhaps I may express myself strongly ; but the simple idea of driving gravel or small calculi through the kidneys, ureters, or urethra, with cold iron, has always affected me with some degree of terror, especially when we must be ignorant of the quantity of gravel to be discharged, or the size, shape, and surface (whether smooth or rough) of the calculi that are to pass through these passages.

When a nephritic paroxysm happens without the use of any medicine, and is probably an effort of nature from irritation, to throw off the peccant matter, how careful are we to avoid every thing which may produce or increase inflammation, and to prescribe the gentlest diuretics, and the mildest

\* Perhaps a steady use of common spring water, in place of ale or beer, might be equally serviceable, and less dangerous in preventing gravel. A gentleman, aged 42, with whom I am acquainted, has for these last 20 years of his life scarce tasted any malt liquor, from an apprehension of gravel, and has confined himself to drinking cold water. His grandfather and great-grandfather died of that disorder ; his father was cut for the stone. He himself has hitherto kept entirely free from this complaint. From a sedentary life, and severe study, he has at present some complaints, which probably are unconnected with gravel ; but being apprehensive of that disorder, he is thinking of trying the Peterhead water, because his father thought he received benefit from it, who, after having tried it for near 30 years, was cut for the stone.



mildest diluents, to relax and sooth, by fomentations and opiates, rather than irritate by *tonics* and *stimulants*.

The mineral water is sometimes recommended for a suppression of urine. When this proceeds from great debility, or a paralytic affection of the longitudinal fibres of the bladder, it may then be sometimes serviceable; but when there is any suspicion of inflammation, or when it proceeds from spasm, I should not think it safe to recommend the water; and considering the difficulty of determining from which of these causes the disorder may proceed, the utmost caution is more necessary.

Dr Laing has recommended it likewise for *dropsy*. Of the propriety of this I have great doubts. There are many diuretics prescribed in that disorder, which are certainly more efficacious, and when tonics are indicated, they may be given in a more concentrated form; when the disease proceeds only from relaxation, perhaps no great danger is to be apprehended from using the water; but when it proceeds, which is frequently the case, from obstructions in the liver, I should be afraid to recommend it. I would not wish to interdict a dropical person, who may have a great thirst, the use of drink; but perhaps a solution of cream of tartar, in common water, which is gently laxative, diuretic, and deobstruent, and which has been so strongly recommended by Dr Home in his Clinical Lectures, in dropical cases, would be more proper for allaying thirst.

It is really not possible precisely to ascertain what quantity of the mineral water may be taken in cases where it is proper to use it freely.

It is prudent to begin with small quantities, and increase the dose as the stomach, or the strength of the person will permit. When the appetite is mended, and the water passes off easily, the person need not be uneasy at thinking he has taken too large a quantity. I have known it drunk  
with



with safety to the amount of two Scotch pints in the course of the day ; though there are not many who can easily take so large a quantity.

It is certainly taken to most advantage at the fountain-head, or in the room where the company assemble to drink the water ; there are many instances, however, of people of great irritability, and who are very weak, beginning to drink it in bed in the morning with success.

There is frequently a numerous genteel company here, drinking the water during the season, which depends very much on the weather ; it commonly begins in the month of June, and terminates in August or September.

There are such crowds of country people who resort to it in the month of July, that frequently the spring does not afford so much water as they would drink, and before 6 or 7 o'clock in the morning, the well is often literally dry. The company indeed at that time are not easily satisfied, for many of them drink from 6 to 8 Scotch pints in the day, besides from a mutchkin to a Scotch pint of sea-water, and eating large quantities of dilse. They cannot be convinced, that the mineral water can be of any service to their complaints without proving laxative, which is not its ordinary effect, and they have generally very severe exercise during the time they remain here ; they are often much reduced in their strength before they leave this place ; they frequently ask advice in what manner the water should be taken, but with great reluctance follow it, if the water has no sensible effects during their stay here.

They come here indiscriminately for all diseases, without taking any previous advice. I have seen many, who were in the last stage of a consumption, and others who had been drinking the mineral water for several days in large quantities, with constant fever on them, and whom with difficulty I have persuaded to return home.



They come in great crouds hither, from the distance of 30 or 40 miles ; and in the higher parts of the county, servants frequently make it an article in their agreement with their masters, to have 5 or 6 days of the *Wine Well* at Peterhead, whether they have any complaints or not.

Many have applied to me for advice. In general they say their complaints are gravelish ; but, on enquiring more minutely, it is flatulency and indigestion, which is commonly called a *windy gravel* : and I believe this is one reason why the water is held in such repute for gravelish complaints. When I have reason to think it is really gravel, I always advise them to drink the water very moderately, if I cannot persuade them to abstain from it altogether, and most frequently send them home, with advice to take such medicines as appear most proper for them.

There are great numbers who resort hither, with cutaneous eruptions, scrofula, and glandular swellings ; these find much more benefit from the sea-water and bathing in the sea, than from the mineral water ; but they must drink out of the *Wine Well*, whatever their disorder may be.

Dr Laing has recommended the Peterhead water for the scrofula, from its affinity to *muriated barytes*. I have not seen any effects from that medicine, which should induce me to give the mineral water a preference to sea-water and bathing in the sea. Indeed, I know no disease, in the treatment of which one can speak with less confidence, of the effects of medicine, it is so fluctuating in its appearance, and the alterations, that appear in the patient, depend so much on the different seasons of the year, peculiarities of age, and constitution, that what is merely the efforts of nature, is frequently attributed to a medicine, which may be in vogue, or may serve a present interest.

Great exertions have been made for the accommodation of the genteel company who resort hither on account of their  
their



their health, and persons of every kind may find convenient lodgings. Two cold baths, a room where the company may assemble to drink the water, a large room for dancing, a billiard-room, and other accommodations, have been built by the society of Free Masons, and are to be found in the Keith Lodge, immediately contiguous to the well, which was erected about 30 years ago. They are at present employed in adding to the lodge an hotel, with a large suite of bed-rooms, for the accommodation of the water-drinkers; and which, by being separated from the New Inn only by the high-road, and immediately opposite to it, will be found extremely convenient, and, it is hoped, agreeable to the company who resort to this place.

The New Inn was originally built by the late Earl of Errol, from a desire to promote the interest of this town, and for the accommodation of the water-drinkers. A great number of houses, where elegant lodgings may be found, have been erected by many of the inhabitants, merely with a view to accommodate strangers. There is only wanting a warm bath, and a bathing machine on the sea-beach.

The company deserve every encouragement, as the money left by them in summer is very considerable.

*Buildings.*—Were a person, who had resided in Peterhead about 30 years ago, to come here for the first time since that period, he would be very much surprised with the present appearance of the town, both as to its size, and the improvement in the style of building. Several acres which were under the plough, contiguous to the principal street, have been feued, and are now decorated with some of the best streets and houses in town. One acre, which at that period yielded from L. 1 to L. 1, 10s. Sterling of rent, would now produce nearly L. 150 Sterling for house-rent.

Thirty



Thirty years ago, peat-stacks and dunghills stood on the principal streets in front of the houses; these nuisances are now removed, and it is allowed by strangers to be as clean and neat in its appearance as any town in Scotland.

The houses are not magnificent, but they are commodious and elegant, and are built of the finest granite, which is dressed so as to have a most agreeable appearance, and remains long without being sullied by the weather.

Near the head of the principal street, where the tolbooth formerly stood, is an elegant town-house, 60 feet long and 40 feet wide, with a spire, which is 110 feet from the threshold to the ball; within the spire there is an excellent bell and a very fine clock. This house has cost L. 1600, and before being finished, will cost L. 2000 Sterling.

*Water.*—There is no soft water in the town. This is inconvenient for the purposes of washing, and deprives the inhabitants of one great luxury, the pleasure of drinking pure spring water, and this circumstance is peculiarly disagreeable to strangers.

The water within the town is seldom used for tea; water for that purpose is brought from a well about 70 yards eastwards from the manse, where there is a cistern which was formerly open, and where people employed to carry the water dipped their ankers very freely, without much attention to cleanness. That nuisance is now removed; the cistern a few years ago was covered; the water taken from this well is not soft, but it is pleasant to the taste, and is supposed to extract the taste and flavour of tea better than water that is much softer. It has for time immemorial been called the Tea Well, and many people subsist entirely by carrying water from it to the town.

The water in the town, and at a small distance from it, is found from a long experience to be well calculated for  
making



making beer of a superior quality to what is produced from the best water in other places. This town was once famous for having ale of an excellent quality, and it was then to be found in most houses. Formerly considerable quantities of beer were exported from Peterhead, and they are alive in this town, who have seen signs upon taverns in Edinburgh, "Peterhead beer and ale to be sold." There is still ale to be found in this town in many private houses, which supports its former character; but at present the supply is mostly from a brewery in the neighbourhood, not in this parish, and two smaller ones in the town, and from which the inhabitants frequently get ale of a very good quality. It must appear likewise extraordinary, but from whatever cause it may proceed, nothing is more certain, than that the wheaten bread of this town is of a very superior quality to that in most other places; strangers, of whom there are great numbers here in summer, all take notice of it; and I have seen many people who have been in most towns on the continent of Europe, who declare they never saw better bread in the course of their travels. Shall this be attributed likewise to the water? or the air of the town? Many persons who have been accustomed for a short time to eat the bread of this town, have sent for it from the distance of upwards of 30 miles.

*Trade and Shipping.*—This town has for a long time been a place of some trade; and at a distant period, ships have sailed from this to the Baltic, Mediterranean seas, and America. From the testimony of a very respectable inhabitant, a few days ago, aged 92, who is very distinct in her recollection, I am informed, in 1720 there were only three ships which sailed from this place. By the same person, though this may not be the proper place to mention it, I am informed, that before the year 1745, all the potatoes



potatoes brought to this town were imported from Ireland; that in that year some were brought from Strichen, about 14 or 15 miles from this place, probably from Lord Strichen's farm; that 60 years ago there were no carts in the town or parish.

From an anonymous manuscript, which appears to deserve some regard, I find there were only six ships belonging to this town in 1727. At present there are 26, and 2 ready to be launched. Some are employed in the foreign, the greatest part in the coasting trade. The ships are from 40 to 200 tons, and will amount nearly to 3000 tons dead weight. This is more than double the shipping of Banff, a royal burgh, the metropolis of that county, and a town of great opulence.

It is only of late that the trade of this town has been in a proper channel, and any attention bestowed on fishings and manufactures. Much remains still to be done; but from the exertions that have been made, and still continue with increasing ardour, it is to be hoped this will soon be the most thriving town in the north of Scotland.

Formerly there was too much connexion with an illicit trade from Gottenburgh and Holland, that has now almost ceased.

The fish on this coast are all caught by boats. I have often been surprised attempts are not made to carry on this business with ships, as the Dutch fish on this coast every summer. Ships are sent every season; and I believe, during the greatest part of the year from London, who supply the market there with live cod and flat fish, which they catch in the Pentland frith, in that neighbourhood, or on this coast. There are two, sometimes three vessels, sent to fish at Barrahead; they carry out 16 fishermen each, and the average cargoes of each vessel are from 12 to 14 tons of dried cod and ling, besides the oil from sun-fish which they



catch, which is sometimes considerable. The cod-fish is generally sent to the Mediterranean, and for 20 years backwards has been thought a good trade.

Some years ago there were two vessels sent to Iceland from this place to fish for cod ; but after a trial for several years, the trade was dropped. The like number of vessels was sent to the herring-fishery, which in general was not thought a profitable trade.

There is one ship sent to the Greenland fishing, which musters 36 men ; she has hitherto been rather unsuccessful ; it is hoped, however, the company concerned with the ship will still continue the trade, as the situation of this place is certainly favourable for an enterprise of this kind.

The principal attention at present is bestowed on manufactures, in which many different companies are concerned. This was introduced only in 1764, by two young ladies of the name of *Park*, who began the manufacture of white threads on a small scale ; and when it was commenced, there was no yarn could be spun in the town above four hanks. The spinsters were soon brought to spin from eight to ten hanks. The Miss Parks were so attentive to the business, and so honest in their dealings, that their threads were as much esteemed as any in the kingdom. They extended their bleachfield, and were always certain of a ready sale for any quantity they manufactured. They have retired a few years ago from business.

There are now in the parish and neighbourhood, with which the merchants here are connected, five bleachfields, where threads of an excellent quality are manufactured.

A woollen-cloth manufacture has been established for a considerable time, and another for cotton for several years.

A salt manufacture has lately been established here ; likewise a nail and tin manufacture, both in their infancy, but will



will probably soon increase, as there is a greater demand for these articles than the company can find hands to furnish.

A few years ago there was a distillery for whisky, which was permitted to be rectified; there was a very good imitation of gin, brandy, cinnamon water, and other foreign spirits. The whisky and cinnamon water were excellent. The late act of Parliament put a stop to this distillery. A few months ago it was in contemplation to make bricks and tiles; the clay on the piece of ground pitched upon for that purpose was not of sufficient depth. This manufacture is much wanted, and probably will soon take place in some other part of the parish. A tannery is instantly to be established.

The town is excellently supplied with tradesmen of all kinds, particularly wrights and masons, many of whom are not only fit to perform the operative part of their business, but qualified to give and execute plans of houses, and are employed for that purpose, not only in the town, but in many places in the country at a considerable distance.

All kinds of household-furniture are made in the neatest and most substantial manner. There is one turner, who employs two or three hands besides himself; he is a very ingenious young man, and turns a variety of articles so neatly, that his shop is resorted to by most strangers who frequent this town, and his goods are commissioned from many places at a distance.

There is frequent intercourse betwixt this place and Norway and the Baltic. The coal-trade is carried on pretty briskly. A great quantity of goods is imported from London, such as porter, hops, flour, sugar, tea, fruit, spiceries, &c. which not only supply the town, but a large district of country.—A great part of this trade formerly belonged to *Frazerburgh*, a small town about 18 miles from this,



this, at the entrance of the *Moray frith*; it has now taken a different channel, and considerable quantities of goods are transported by carriers to Frazerburgh, and the neighbourhood of that town.

The trade with London is mostly carried on by ships belonging to a company at Banff, who have a few ships constantly employed in bringing goods from London to Peterhead, Frazerburgh, and Banff. There is generally one of these traders here every two or three weeks. I am glad to find the merchants in this town are to employ their own ships in this trade. There is a very great value of eggs, butter, cheese, sometimes of beef and pork, exported from this port to London.

A great quantity of victual is exported from this harbour, and purchased mostly by merchants in this place, partly on commission, and partly on speculation.

There are many articles from the Carron Company brought hither; likewise from the manufacturing towns of Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, and Birmingham. Goods to a considerable amount are imported from Sunderland, Newcastle, Hull, Leith, Glasgow, Aberdeen, &c.; and by a list I have seen from the waiter of the principal Inn here, I find the number of riders and merchants on business, who lodged there from the 16th of May 1793 to the 16th of May 1794, was 153. A state of the trade and manufactures in this town will be best known, by exhibiting as accurate an account of the imports and exports as can be obtained.

*Imports*



*Imports of the following goods for the years under mentioned.*

From Nov. 25. 1792 to ditto 1793 arrived in this port 518 vessels, 416 of which were strangers; from Nov. 25. 1793 to ditto 1794 arrived in this port 471 vessels, 400 of which were strangers.					
	Foreign wood value,	ways, value,	Spey and other wood coaft-	Coals and candles at 4 s. the boll,	Flax mat at L. 2, 10 s.
From Nov. 25. 1789 to Nov. 25. 1790.	L. 1277	L. 552	B. 2625	B. 6019	M. 997
From ditto 1790 to ditto 1791.	1403	479	4906	3712	1441
From ditto 1791 to ditto 1792.	1515	984	3630	4769	1582
From ditto 1792 to ditto 1793.	1249	1344	7075	5113	764
From ditto 1793 to ditto 1794.	759	1023	7659	3653	764
Average of five years in money,	L. 1152	L. 876	L. 1036	L. 506	L. 2774

Prior to 1792, there was an annual importation of iron from Sweden of about 30 tons; since that time it has been brought coaftways from Leith and Aberdeen, and the quantity is supposed nearly the same.

Tiles, bricks, and flates are imported, supposed to the value of L. 600 Sterling each year.

From the variety of packages, and incorrect manner of clearing out bale goods at the Customhouse, it is impossible to ascertain the quantity of goods under that denomination; but from Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Carron, Glasgow, &c. they may be estimated at L. 6000 Sterling annually. The gross amount in value of goods brought hither from London, in groceries, teas, hops, flour, grafs-seeds, porter, and many other necessaries and luxuries of life for these three last years, is supposed to be L. 12,000 each year.

It is supposed there is not less than 9000 lb. of tea imported.

From 20 to 24 pipes of red Port and white wine are imported by way of Leith; 22 pipes, at L. 50 Sterling each pipe, L. 1100 Sterling.

Some



Some claret and Madeira are imported, but of these the quantity is not considerable.

From 10 to 12 puncheons of rum, bought at Leith, Glasgow, and Greenock, are imported here, which cost about L. 600 Sterling. The value for any other sort of foreign spirits is not considerable, excepting what is smuggled, which is not known.

The quantity of British spirits sold here is from 4000 to 5000 gallons; at 4 s. *per* gallon, L. 900 Sterling; this includes whisky, and all sorts of British made spirits.

From 800 to 900 *kegs* of spruce beer are imported from *Dantzick*; also a considerable quantity of ashes, honey, ropes, &c. supposed to be L. 1500 Sterling.

From L. 200 to L. 300 Sterling value in clover and flaxseed has been annually imported from Rotterdam for some years past.

*Exports.*—I have formerly mentioned, that there are about 50 tons of *kelp* made on the shores of this parish; from 400 to 600 barrels of cod caught here, salted, and sent to the London market; from 20 to 30 tons of dried cod and ling, caught at the *Hebrides*, exported from this place, and generally sent to *Barcelona*; about 400 barrels caught in the *Higblands*, are annually exported from this harbour. About 50 barrels of salted salmon caught in the Ugie must be included in the exports. About 1000 bolls of potatoes raised in the parish, and mostly on the lands adjacent to the town, are sent each year either to *Norway* or *England*. From 600 to 800 tons of *kerb* and carriage-way stones are annually sent to London, Lynn, and other places, and are generally sold here at 13 s. *per* ton.

*Exports*



*Exports of different Species of Grain the following Years  
from the Harbour of Peterhead.*

	Beans and pease.	Bear.	Oats.	Meal.
	Bolls.	Bolls.	Bolls.	Bolls.
From Nov. 25. 1789 to Nov. 25. 1790,	251	1942	320	11,945
From ditto 1790 to ditto 1791,	428	1178	1249	15,552
From ditto 1791 to ditto 1792,	220	893	1424	6524
From ditto 1792 to ditto 1793,	—	1282	339	6598
From ditto 1793 to ditto 1794,	30	572	525	5460
Total for five years, - -	929	5867	3857	46,079
Average of the last five years, -	186	1173	771	9216
Average of the value of the above for the last five years, pease 14s. bear 16s. oats 12s. 6d. and meal 12s. 6d.	L. 130	L. 938	L. 482	L. 5760
Total value of grain exported from Peterhead each year, for the last five years, - - - -	-	-	L. 7310	0 0

For two or three years past, from 130 to 140 tons of butter are annually shipped at the port of Peterhead, which is all made and cured within the space of from 15 to 18 miles in the vicinity of the town of Peterhead. This is now mostly sent to the London market; formerly all the butter from this corner was sent to the different ports in the frith of Forth; part is still sent thither. For some years past the butter has sold from L. 56 to L. 60 Sterling *per ton*; on an average L. 58, 135 tons would be L. 7830 Sterling. From 160 to 180 tons cheese are annually shipped; they all go to the different ports south from Aberdeen to Berwick, and sell from L. 17 to L. 20 Sterling *per ton*. On an average, 170 tons, at L. 18, 10s. will be L. 3145 Sterling\*. Of late

\* The quantity of butter and cheese exported is by some persons reckoned high. I have reason, however, to think it is accurate, as I have my information from Mr John Sellar, a principal merchant in this town, who is well acquainted with this branch of trade, and assures me, he himself exports more than one half of what is stated in the estimate.



late years a good deal of beef and pork has been sent to the London market, and answers very well.

About 60 boxes of eggs, each box containing 150 dozen, and supposed to be worth at London L. 400 Sterling in all, exported annually from this town.

*Manufactures.*—There are 52 twist-mills in the town of Peterhead, employing constantly 334 people in doubling, twisting, and making up threads, and will manufacture 104,000 spindles of yarn; this will employ 800 spinners, who will earn 2 s. 6 d. *per week* each. The greatest part of these threads are bleached, and made from Dutch flax, a considerable quantity of the yarns are bought at Banff, Huntly, Keith, &c. The threads are sent to the London market; and when manufactured, will sell for about L. 20,000 Sterling. Women-servants employed in doubling, will earn from 2 s. 6 d. to 4 s. *per week*; men servants employed in heckling, twisting, &c. will earn from 5 s. to 8 s. *per week*.

The persons concerned in this trade are as follow :

J. Arbuthnot, Scott, & Co.	18 mills, employing 117 servants, & 36,000 spind.
J. Burd & Co.	- 15 ditto, ditto 99 ditto, & 30,000
C. Cummine & Co.	- 8 ditto, ditto 51 ditto, & 16,000
J. Robb & Co.	- 6 ditto, ditto 39 ditto, & 13,000
Alex. Johnston and Son,	4 ditto, ditto 27 ditto, & 8000
Alex. Booth,	- 1 ditto, 1000
Total,	52 334 104,000 spind.

This manufacture is rapidly increasing, and one company is instantly going to add six twist-mills to those already employed. The cotton-cloth manufacture lately established by Messrs J. Arbuthnot, Grant, and Company, employs 30 weavers. This company spins their own cotton upon four jennys; their goods, when manufactured into cheques, napkins, and winseys, are supposed to sell for L. 35,000 Sterling.



Sterling annually. The woollen-cloth manufacture carried on by the Messrs Arbuthnots, Dalgarno, and Company employs six weavers, and one spinning jenny for clothing, or big wheel yarn. Their cloth consists of *stuffs, seys, sarges, mankies, duffles*, and it is thought will sell for about L. 1800 Sterling *per annum*.

The Messrs Kilgours at Kinmundie, in the parish of Longside, employ in this town and parish 16 women spinners, and 6 weavers, whose work will amount, when manufactured, to L. 600 Sterling each year.

They bring their wool from *Northumberland*, and chiefly fleece-wool. All the servants employed in the above manufactures are supposed to be constantly employed; but as many of them have families, and others work to private customers, there is at least one-third more engaged in the different branches of manufacture than stated in the above account.

Messrs, Gordon, Baron, and Company at Aberdeen, employ in the town and parish of Peterhead, in the cotton-manufacture, 30 weavers, who, with hands necessary for filling their pirns, will gain annually L. 715 Sterling. The value of this cloth when manufactured will amount to L. 4300 Sterling.

The tin-plate manufacture, just in its infancy, carried on by one hand, amounts to about L. 100 Sterling.

The amount of the nail-manufacture, which at present only employs about eight hands, is L. 400 Sterling.

The salt-manufacture, which only commenced about twelve months ago, with one pan, makes, in the course of a year, 4000 bushels of salt, which, at 4 s. *per* bushel, amounts to L. 800 Sterling.

The work finished by two ship-builders, and two boat-carpenters, who employ a considerable number of hands, in



the course of a year, it is supposed will amount to L. 1200 Sterling.

It is but fair to mention, that several gentlemen in this town have connexions in trade, that cannot be said to belong properly to this place, particularly Messrs James and Thomas Arbuthnots, who are concerned in the manufacture of kelp, and in the salmon-fishing, to a very large extent in different parts of the kingdom \*, and are likewise concerned as ship-owners; and the Messrs Huchinsons, and other merchants, who employ a number of ships, their own property, of great value, in carrying goods to merchants in different places, some at a very remote distance; besides some others, that have considerable transactions, that cannot properly

\* The Messrs Arbuthnots were early promoters of the fishings and manufactures in this place, and are still connected with them; they are likewise tacksmen of the salmon-fishing on Ugie. The Messrs Hutchinsons are likewise connected with the fishings, and other branches of trade belonging to this town. It is to be regretted that the fishings have not been extended farther. The lobster-fishing, from Peterhead to the Pentlands frith, is an object of considerable importance, and has been in the hands of English merchants for these last 30 years. The fishers in the town of Peterhead are so well acquainted with the method of taking them, that many of them are employed in different parts of the Moray frith by agents settled in Peterhead by different companies in England. There are vast varieties of flat fish on this coast, or at no great distance from this place, which might be caught with a trail net, which has never been attempted. Herrings are frequently on the coast, but a boat or ship never was sent in search of them. The Dutch catch them every summer, as well as cod. Ships pass every week from the Pentland frith with live cod, and flat fish, for the London market. Great quantities of large ling and cod might be caught here, and dried on the rocks, besides what are taken by the fishers of Boddum in boats.

There is still room for improvements in the manner of catching fish. In the Mediterranean, fish are caught in nets with flambeaux in the night time. In the rivers in Scotland it has long been a practice to kill salmon and trouts with lighted torches in the darkness of the night. It has often been suggested to make trial of this method with salmon at sea, but it has never been attempted.



properly be placed to the trade of this place, particularly one of the name of Findlater, who deals very extensively, both in the foreign and domestic trade; two years ago travelled from Petersburg to Moscov, and this year intends being at *Constantinople*.

*Fairs.*—In the town there is a weekly market on Friday; and two annual fairs, one in the month of May, and the other in November.

*Taverns.*—There are 30 taverns in the parish, all in the town, excepting two in the country part of the parish, and these are in the sea-town of Boddam.

*Shops.*—There are about 35 shops in the town; of these, there are 20 dealers in tea, and 18 dealers in spirits.

*Flesh-market.*—Prior to 1792, in the flesh-market 250 oxen and cows were killed each year, 600 sheep, and 60 swine, besides calves, which were numerous. For these last two years there is above one-fourth of an increase in these different articles; but the precise number of each cannot be ascertained.

*Excise and Customs.*—The duties for excise for ale and malt last year were L. 273 Sterling. Duties on licenses for spirits, teas, tobacco, wine, &c. were L. 176 Sterling. From the 5th of January 1792 to the 5th of January 1793, the amount of the duties on customs paid for goods imported from foreign parts was L. 557 : 5 : 9 Sterling.

*Post-office.*—There is a post-office here, which remitted to the General Post-office last year of postages, free of all expences, L. 280 Sterling; 6 years ago L. 119, and 12 years



years ago L. 60 Sterling. There are at present 6 posts ; in a few days there will be 7 posts, or runners, every week.

*Bank Agents.*—There are two agents in this town for the two banks at Aberdeen ; and besides what transactions may be made for other banks, it is supposed these two agents do business, in the course of one year, to the extent at least of L. 120,000 Sterling ; and I am glad to find the credit of this place is much respected, not only from its opulence, but the fairness of the transactions of the inhabitants. A *bankruptcy* is a very rare occurrence in this town ; and when it does happen, the loss sustained by creditors is not very considerable.

*Charity Funds in Peterhead.*

Merchants box, annual collections of the members, and interest of money,	-	-	L. 90	0	0	
Free-mason's box of Keith Lodge, from the company resorting to the well, at an average,	-	-	L. 40	0	0	
Rent of billiard-table,	-	-	10	0	0	
Yearly contribution from 90 members, 1 s. each,	-	-	4	10	0	
			<hr/>			
			L. 54	10	0	
Take off interest payable,			L. 4	10	0	
			<hr/>			
				50	0	0
Gardener's society, house-rents,			L. 27	0	0	
Yearly contributions of 144 members, 2 s. each,	-	-	14	8	0	
			<hr/>			
			L. 41	8	0	
Take off interest payable,			5	8	0	
			<hr/>			
				36	0	0
			<hr/>			
Carried forward,	-	-	L. 170	0	0	



Brought forward,	-	L. 170	0	0
Trades society, house-rents,	L. 31	7	0	
Yearly contributions of 105 mem- bers, 2 s. each,	-	10	10	0
		<hr/>		
		L. 41	17	0
Take off an annuity of one life,	14	0	0	
		<hr/>		
			27	17 0
Weaver's society, house-rents,	L. 23	0	0	
Annual contributions of 108 mem- bers, 1 s. 6 d. each,	-	8	2	0
		<hr/>		
		L. 31	2	0
Take off interest payable,	11	2	0	
		<hr/>		
			20	0 0
Pilots society, house-rents, and annual contri- butions, &c. above	-	-	20	0 0
St Andrew's society, commenced by a few young gentlemen in the town, interest of money,	-	L. 0	18	0
Annual contributions of members,	3	2	0	
		<hr/>		
			4	0 0
Union society, annual contributions of 6 d. each month of 200 members,	-	-	60	0 0
Sailor's society, house-rents, annual collections of the members, &c. make a revenue of			37	0 0
		<hr/>		
Total,	-	L. 344	17	0

*N. B.* The farmer society is not reckoned in the above account, though a great many of the members belong to the town and parish; their yearly income may be about L. 21 Sterling.

*Price of Provisions.*—Provisions are much increased in their price. An ox, that could have been purchased 30 years



years ago at L. 2, now costs from L. 5 to L. 6 Sterling; eggs were at 1 d. each dozen, they are now from 4 d. to 5 d. sometimes 6 d. and frequently difficult to be purchased at any price, from the brisk demand for the London market. Forty years ago, from the 1st of December to the middle of March, no fresh beef was to be found, and there was no regular market. At that time beef was sold from 10 d. to 1 s. 2 d. Scotch *per* lb.; beef now costs from 3 d. to 4½ d. Sterling each lb. Thirty years ago, veal was never fed; and when exposed to sale, was purchased at 6 d. each quarter; it is now excellently fed, and sells from 3 d. to 5 d. each lb.; lamb at the same price, sometimes 6 d. From 1760 to 1763 mutton was sold by the quarter; a butcher then began to sell it by weight at 1½ d. *per* lb. The inhabitants were much displeased at him for this innovation, and raising the price. Mutton now sells from 2½ d. to 3 d. and sometimes 4 d. each lb. In 1753, butter sold at 2½ d. each lb.; it now sells from 6 d. to 8 d. Hens 30 years ago were sold from 4 d. to 5 d. each; they now sell from 8 d. to 10 d.: chickens were 1 d.; they are now from 2 d. to 3 d. each. Haddocks were 1 d. each dozen, and sometimes only that price each score; they frequently now cost 1 d. each, and if large, a higher price. Lobsters were frequently purchased formerly for 1 d. each; they are now from 2 d. to 4 d. Sucking pigs, 20 or 30 years ago, were only 6 d.; now they are from 3 s. to 5 s. Sterling each.

*Number of Tradesmen.*—Number of tradesmen in the parish, the greatest part of whom are in the town :

Weavers, 40 of whom work with the fly-shuttle, only introduced here 2½ years ago,	-	-	132
Shoemakers,	-	-	57
			Coopers



Coopers in the town, who, besides ordinary work for the inhabitants, make annually 100 salmon-barrels, 2000 barrels for cod and herring, 1000 salmon-kits, and 100 barrels for beef and pork,	14
Tailors,	36
Masons,	48
House-carpenters, ship and boat-carpenters, and wheelwrights,	110
Turners,	3
Bakers, (30 years ago only two superannuated),	14
Blacksmiths,	16
Nailers,	8
Tinsmith,	1
Watchmakers,	3
Hecklers,	20
Dyers,	5
Slaters,	3
Barbers,	7
Plasterers,	5
Flethers,	8
Wool-combers,	6
House-painter,	1
Saddler,	1
Gardeners,	5

There is only one gardener who manages his own garden, the rest are employed in dressing the gardens in Peterhead, or as day-labourers, excepting one, who confines his attention to a small farm.

There never was a bookseller, bookbinder, or stationer in this town, that deserves to be mentioned; there is one going to settle very soon, and to carry on all these different branches; I sincerely wish he may meet with encouragement.



*Review of Population.*—Though the population of the parish has already been mentioned, it may not be improper to state the population of the town of Peterhead, and the value of property at different periods.

In 1593, there were only 14 feus, allowing to each family 4, this makes the number of inhabitants at that time 56. From an anonymous manuscript, I find in 1727 there was supposed to be in the town about 230 families, which, supposing it to be accurate, would make the inhabitants to be at that time about 900. In 1764, they were 1266; in 1769, they were 1518; in 1790, they were 2550; and at present they are supposed to be about 3000. Dr Laing estimates them in 1764 at 1500; but this is a mistake, as that year I visited every family in my parish, and I am confident no list was taken that year, or in 1769, excepting by myself. The list in 1790 was taken by the managers of the town, at which I was not present: of the accuracy of it, however, I have no doubt. From this statement it will appear how rapidly this town has increased in population these last 30 years. In a few years, probably less than 40 years from the time I took the first list, I make no doubt the number of inhabitants will be trebled.

*Value of Feus at different Periods.*—The value of the feus and property in the town has increased very much; in 1593, from considering the charter, each acre appears to have cost about L. 50 Sterling. Since the Governors of the Merchant Maiden Hospital became proprietors, they have feued off land at the rate of 16s. *per* fall, and 1d. of feu-duty for every foot of front, or at L. 128 Sterling *per* acre. Now they have resolved to sell none under L. 1, 10s. *per* fall, or at the rate of L. 240 *per* acre; with 1d. for every foot of front as feu-duty. There are many instances, however, of much higher prices being paid in Peterhead;



terhead; lately 3-4ths of an acre were purchased for L. 90, and in two years afterwards were sold for L. 200 Sterling. A site for a house, consisting only of five falls and five ells, sold for L. 37 Sterling a few months ago; that is, nearly at the rate of L. 1150 *per* acre. About 20 years ago, the Governors asked L. 150 for one acre; a gentleman only offered L. 145; on this acre houses to a great value are now erected; but were there no houses, it would probably fetch eight times the money that was formerly asked for it. Another acre, about 30 years ago, was purchased for L. 120, one fourth-part of which would at present fetch from L. 400 to L. 500 Sterling. There are some particular situations, where L. 100 would be obtained for a site for a house, with very little back ground.

Within these few years more houses have been built than at any former period in the same space of time; lately four new streets were opened, on which a number of houses are already built, and feus daily giving off. Within these last two years, in the course of 12 months, I am informed L. 4000 Sterling have been expended on building houses.

*Character.*—The inhabitants are in general very attentive, very industrious, sober, discreet, and humane. They are very regular in their attendance on public worship, and these good qualities may in general be applied to the whole of the parish.

*Style of Living.*—The style of living is much changed of late; but the inhabitants, for the most part, are economical, and live within their income. Luxuries of life are now more frequent than formerly, both in dress and entertainments; but, on the whole, there is less of dissipation, extravagance, and drunkenness, than in any town of the same size and opulence with which I am acquainted.



Among the lower classes dram and tea drinking is too frequent, and the too general substitution of spirits in place of malt liquor has a pernicious influence on their health and morals.

When I was settled in 1763, there was no post-chaise; there are at present two in the town, which are sufficient in winter, but in summer they cannot supply the demand for chaises from the inhabitants and company who resort hither. Thirty years ago, as far as I can recollect, there was no clothier's shop; the inhabitants in general were satisfied with cloth manufactured at home, or goods retailed here from Glasgow, or commissioning cloth from Aberdeen. There are at present three clothiers shops, who have all kinds of cloth from the different manufacturing towns in England, besides such goods as are made at Paisley and Glasgow. There are two shops who sell only goods from these two manufacturing towns; frequently different people find it their interest to bring goods from these places, and reside in this town till they are sold.

*Hints of Improvement.*—In a word, the town of Peterhead is in a very thriving state, and would be much more improved if there was a *firm and steady police*, some nuisances removed, greater exertions made to improve the harbour, soft spring-water brought into the town, which might be found at no great distance, the streets better paved, and illuminated with lamps in winter; it would likewise contribute much to the ornament of the town, if some regular plan could be adopted as to the size of the houses in the new streets that are lately opened.—There is no greater defect than the want of a proper schoolmistress of education, manners, and character, to teach the young girls such branches of education as are only to be found in larger towns at a very high expence.



I shall only add, that if more liberal ideas were entertained of the education of children, it would make a favourable alteration on the manners and sentiments of the inhabitants, and gradually introduce a more general desire for the improvement of the mind and the heart.

*Abstract of Imports, Exports, and Manufactures of Peterhead each Year.*

IMPORTS.

Foreign wood, at an average of five years,	L. 1252	0	0
Ditto, from Spey and coastways,	876	0	0
Coals and cinders,	1036	0	0
Lime,	506	0	0
Flax,	2774	0	0
Yarn from Huntly, Keith, &c. 30,000 spin-			
dles,	3900	0	0
Iron,	600	0	0
Bales from Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow, &c.	6000	0	0
Groceries from London, Leith, &c.	12,000	0	0
Wines,	1100	0	0
Rum and foreign spirits,	600	0	0
British spirits,	900	0	0
Sundries from Dantzick,	1500	0	0
Clover and flax-seed from Holland,	300	0	0
Tiles, slates, and bricks,	600	0	0
Total-imports,	L. 33,944	0	0



## EXPORTS.

Kelp, 50 tons, at L. 5 <i>per</i> ton,	-	L. 250	0	0
Barrels of cod, 500, at L. 1, 10 s. <i>per</i> barrel,	-	750	0	0
Dried cod, 25 tons, at L. 28 <i>per</i> ton,	-	700	0	0
Barrels of herring, 400, at L. 1, 3 s. <i>per</i> barrel,	-	460	0	0
Salted salmon, 50 barrels, at L. 3, 5 s. <i>per</i> do.	-	162	0	0
1000 bolls of potatoes, at 8 s. <i>per</i> boll,	-	400	0	0
Kirb and carriage-way stones, 700 tons, 13 s. <i>per</i> ton,	-	455	0	0
Exports of grain,	-	7310	0	0
Butter, 135 tons, at L. 58 <i>per</i> ton,	-	7830	0	0
Cheese, 170 tons, at L. 18 <i>per</i> ton,	-	3145	0	0
Eggs,	-	400	0	0
Threads manufactured here,	-	20,000	0	0
Cotton-cloth manufacture,	-	3500	0	0
Woollen-cloth ditto,	-	1800	0	0
Messrs Kilgour, ditto,	-	600	0	0
Messrs Gordon, Baron, and Company, for work in Peterhead,	-	715	0	0
Nail manufacture,	-	400	0	0
Tinplate ditto,	-	100	0	0
Salt manufactory, 4000 bushels, 4 s. <i>per</i> bushel,	-	800	0	0
Ship and boat-building,	-	1200	0	0
Oil, whalebone, seal-skins, &c. from the whale-ship,	-	1100	0	0
Hides and tallow, exported to Leith and Aberdeen,	-	300	0	0
Beef exported from September 1794 to January 1795,	-	750	0	0
Pork exported from ditto to ditto,	-	342	0	0
Carried forward,		L. 53,469	0	0



Brought forward,	L. 53,469	0	0
Salmon and cod barrels, and salmon-kits, (barges supplying these articles to the trade in Peterhead), which are exported,	349	0	0
For lobsters exported to London,	50	0	0
Shoes, turnery goods, and ropes from the ropery, exported,	300	0	0
Beef, ale, and bread, to stranger ships,	500	0	0
Increase on the thread-manufactures in 1795,	2000	0	0
Total exports,	L. 56,668	0	0
Total imports,	33,944	0	0
Total imports and exports,	L. 90,612	0	0
Balance in favour of the town,	L. 22,724	0	0

*N. B.* Fractions in the above abstract are omitted.

From the above abstract it appears, that the trade of this town is above L. 90,000. If I had stated the money supposed to be left by the company who attend the mineral well, and the amount of the trade carried on by merchants residing in the town, but which cannot properly be said to belong to this port, by which I do not mean any illicit trade, I have no doubt the trade of the town of Peterhead would be found to exceed L. 100,000 Sterling each year.

*P. S.* Upon revising this abstract several weeks after it was finished, I am sensible some deductions will be made, as the Messrs Kilgours do not reside in this town, and part of the victual, butter, and cheese are exported by merchants, who have their residence elsewhere; but having likewise discovered, that no mention is made of cart-wheels,



wheels, leather, and dye-stuffs imported here, nor any value set upon the carts, cart-wheels, ploughs, labouring utensils, and household-furniture, sent to the country, which is very considerable, and that no statement is made of the freights drawn for ships employed in trade not connected with this port, I am very confident I have no reason to make the amount of the trade less than I have represented it; and if I were to make any alterations, it would be only to show, that the trade probably is considerably above £. 100,000.

NUM-



N U M B E R XXIX.

PARISH OF LONMAY,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, AND PRESBYTERY  
OF DEER).

*From Materials collected by Mr JOHN LUNDIE,  
Minister of Lonmay.*

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*Name, Situation, and Extent.*

**T**HIS parish at different times has been named St Colm, from the name of the saint to whom the old church was dedicated, and Longmay, Longmey, and Lonmay, from the name of the estate on which the church now stands.

It is situated in the presbytery of Deer, and in the Synod and county of Aberdeen. Its length is 10 English miles; its greatest breadth scarcely four miles. It is bounded on the S. E. by Crimond; on the S. by Longside and Old Deer; on the S. W. by Brechin; on the W. and N. E. by Rathen; and on the E. by the German Ocean.

*Soil*



*Soil and Climate.*—The soil of the parish is various. The air, especially on the coast, is rather moist, but not unhealthy.

*Mineral Springs.*—There are many mineral springs in the parish, but they have never been analyzed; and from the celebrity of the mineral well of Peterhead, at 12 miles distance, they are little used.

*Lake.*—There is only one lake, lying on the boundary betwixt the parishes of Lonmay and Crimond. It is now called the *loch* of Strathbeg. It was formerly a small rivulet, called indifferently the burn of Strathbeg, and water of Rattray. Buchanan calls it *Ratra amsis*. By a storm the mouth of it was shut up, and successive banks of sand have been thrown up by the sea, and the rivulet has, in the course of a little more than a century, become a lake of 550 Scotch, or 700 English acres. For several years past it has not increased in magnitude; the evaporation from the surface being equal to the quantity of water emptied into the lake. Were a person to measure with tolerable accuracy the quantity of water which runs into this lake, it would possibly afford *data* for proving, that the evaporation from the Caspian Sea is sufficient to counterbalance all the water poured in from the rivers which empty themselves into it. An attempt has been lately made to drain the lake of Strathbeg; but the person who made the attempt failed in his circumstances, which has suspended the work. It is said, however, that he is soon to resume it. His reward is a long lease of the grounds covered by the lake. The fishes contained in this lake are, red and white trout, eels, flounders, and large fresh water muscles, commonly called pearl muscles. No pearls, however,



however, have been found in the muscles taken out of this lake.

The soil in the bottom of this lake is not deep, but is seemingly of a marly nature, owing, perhaps, to muscle-shells decayed.

*Rivers, &c.*—No navigable rivers run through the parish, but a considerable stream, one of the branches of the Ugie, runs by the north and south-east boundaries. A canal could be carried along both branches of the Ugie at no great expence, and with the most beneficial consequences to the agriculture and commerce of Buchan.

This parish has above four miles of coast, and the shore is flat and sandy. The species of fish caught on this coast are turbot, holibut, plaice, skate, ling, cod, sand-eel, haddock, whiting, cole-fish, flounders, soles, and mackaral. Sometimes, but rarely, sea-bream, wrasse, and dorce. Herring also are found, but there are no herring-nets. One trial was made of fishing for salmon, and was tolerably successful.

Sea-wreck of several kinds is found on the coast; and kelp is made, but in small quantities.

There are two fishing-towns belonging to Mr Gordon of Buthlaw. One of these was lately built, and consists of 20 tiled houses, placed in two parallel rows, with a street in the middle.

*Mosses.*—There are several extensive mosses in this parish. A large one belongs to Mr Milne of Grimond-mo-gate, another to Mr Cumming of Kinithmont. The other heritors, Mr Duff of Logie, son of the late Admiral Duff, Mr Bisset of Rathon, and Mr Fraser of Park, have also mosses, which abound in the whole district of Buchan.



*Minerals.*—No marble, freestone, or slate, and not much moorstone, are found in this parish. But a blue stone has been quarried on the estate of Cairnacs, belonging to Mr Gordon of Buthlaw. This, contrary to the nature of the blue stone commonly found in Aberdeenshire, cuts as well as granite, and makes beautiful ashler work. Of this stone, Mr Gordon has lately built an elegant modern house, on a plan given by Mr Playfair.

No coal mines are found in this parish; but limestone is found in great quantities on the estate of Craigellie, about 2 English miles from the church, and is much used for manure.

*Quadrupeds.*—The quadrupeds found in this parish, besides horses, sheep, hogs, black cattle, dogs, and cats, are moles in great numbers, foxes seen sometimes, otters in the lake of Strathbeg, observed but seldom, polecats, weasels, common and shrew-mice, hares, rats, and water-rats.

*Birds.*—The birds and wild fowls are of various kinds; jack-daws, magpies, the cuckoo, swans, and wild-geese, (in Strathbeg after harvest, and till the spring), barnacles shot on the coast, duck in Strathbeg at all seasons, teals on the coast, soland-geese passing in sight of land, common gull, and great black and white gull, tarrock, heron, curlew, woodcock, snipe, jack-snipe, lapwing, (not so numerous as formerly), sand-pipers, green plover, coots, land-rail, grouse in the moorles, partridges, quails, sky-lark, starlings, field-fare, generally appearing before snow, thrush, blackbird, chatterers, crossbill, seen but rarely, greenfinches, goldfinches, chaffinches, yellow hammers, red sparrows, hedge sparrows, redbreasts, water-wagtails, swifts, swallows, and white-ears.

*Population.*



*Population.*—The return to Dr Webster in 1755 was 1674 souls. The number of inhabitants of all ages at present is about 1650. Of which, 311 are Scotch Episcopal, and 17 are Seceders. If we may judge from the situation of the church of St Colm, (of which part of the west glebe still remains, and which stood on the north-east part of the parish, 10 miles from the south by west extremity), population has formerly been very thin in this parish, except on the sea-coast.

*Agriculture.*—The agriculture of this district, though certainly improved of late years by the introduction of lime and green crops, has not advanced so much as might have been expected. One great error of the Buchan farmers, which is apt to strike even a stranger riding through the country, is the ploughing too seldom. In deep clay soils, where, in the county of Angus, three ploughings are always used, beans are frequently sown broadcast after one ploughing, and bear after beans in the same manner. Yet a very good crop of drilled beans is to be seen this year (1795) upon a farm in the personal possession of one of the heritors. It is also to be remarked, that a rotation of crops is not yet established in this district. While the heritor only ploughs where he cannot get grass to grow any longer, the tenant sometimes ploughs as long as corn of any kind will grow. A regular rotation of crops, adapted to the different soils, is too little attended to in this district; and now that lime is very generally used, the lands may suffer from injudicious cropping.

*Rent of the Parish.*—The rent of this parish is about 2000 guineas; and may be supposed to increase with the improvements in agriculture.



*Ecclesiastical State.*—The minister's stipend is 9 chalders of victual, and 600 merks Scots, or L. 33 : 6 : 8 Sterling in money. Mr Gordon of Buthlaw is patron. The church was built in 1787. The old church had stood since 1608, at which period the parish-church was removed from St Colm to Lonmay.

NUM.



NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF PREMNAV,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF  
GARIOCH.)

*By a Friend to Statistical Inquiries:*

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*Origin of the Name, &c.*

**P**REMNAV is situated in the county and Synod of Aberdeen, and in the district and presbytery of Garioch. Its name is derived from the Gaelic. It is bounded on the S. by the mountain of Bennochie, which separates it from the parish of Keig; on the W. by the parish of Leslie; on the N. by Kinnethmont and Insch; and on the E. by the parish of Dyne.

*Extent.*—Premnav, exclusive of the uncultivated and uninhabited part of it on Bennochie, is a long stripe of land, lying along the water of Gady, (which runs through it), and is about four miles long by one and an half miles broad. It contains nearly 3000 acres, (exclusive of the mountain of Bennochie), about 2000 of which has been made arable, and  
? nearly



nearly 1000 of it limed, inclosed, and planted with hedge-rows on one estate.

*Soil.*—The soil is various. On the banks of the Gady, in general, it is very rich; on the side of the mountain of Bennochie it is much poorer. In several places a strong clay; and on some small knolls or hills on the north side of Gady, a sandy loam, which in some places is shallow, and easily hurt in dry seasons, but is in general both early and fertile.

*Mountain.*—The mountain of Bennochie is one of the largest in the county of Aberdeen. It is nearly 1000 feet above the level of the sea, and about 750 feet above the level of the water of Gady, opposite to the church of Premnay, and its base may cover an area of about 4000 acres, the greatest part of which is unarable. The name Bennochie is said to signify, *Hill with the paps*, from its having several tops. It is a royal forest, though no trees are now raised, excepting a few on the skirts of the mountain. It appears from the *Laurus Lesciana*, that it was formerly fortified; and the remains of a stone wall are still standing near its highest top. It supplies the inhabitants of the neighbouring parishes with peats for fuel; but in rainy seasons it is very difficult of access. It contains stones of very fine granite, which are much esteemed, and carried several miles.

*River.*—The small rivulet Gady, produces very good trout, but no salmon. It is useful in turning different corn-mills in this and the neighbouring parishes.

*Manure.*—The only manure, except the dung raised on the farms, is lime brought from Aberdeen, a distance of



24 miles. But if the projected canal were carried to Insh, it would be easily within the reach of the farmers of this parish.

*Agriculture.*—About 24 years ago the greatest part of this parish was uninclosed and unimproved. But at that period, Mr Gordon, late proprietor of the principal estate, began to improve his lands on a great scale. Carts from Aberdeen, loaded with lime, were hired to Inverury, a distance of 14 miles; and Mr Gordon's own horses and oxen went to Inverury, and brought the lime from that town to Premnay. The fields were inclosed and planted with hedge-rows, and in general were thoroughly limed. Proper farm-houses, and other necessary buildings were erected; and the lands, after being several years in the proprietor's own hands, were let to different farmers. The estate has since been sold at 60 years purchase of the old rent, before the improvements commenced. Yet the expence of improving the lands at such a distance from a seaport, has hurt the fortune of the intelligent and public spirited gentleman who improved them. It may here be remarked, that it is more prudent for a landed gentleman to improve one farm, and then let it, and afterwards to improve the other farms in succession, than to attempt improving the whole at once. Labourers cannot easily be had; the price of labour is suddenly raised; the difficulty of hoeing large quantities of turnips, of cutting down and stacking large quantities of hay, and of harvesting large quantities of grain in rainy, or in late seasons, becomes very great, especially where many of the labourers must travel two or three miles to and from their work; and a gentleman improves at a greater expence than what is incurred by a common farmer, who is his own overseer.

Besides,



Besides, as the market price of every commodity is regulated by the proportion between those who buy and those who sell, when his improvements are finished, a gentleman, who has *his whole estate in the market at once*, cannot expect the same rent for it, as if he let every other year a newly improved farm to a practical farmer. Perhaps the most advantageous way in which an estate can be improved, is to give the farmer encouragement, and even assistance to improve it. For example, if the necessary quantity of lime cannot be afforded by the farmer, the proprietor may give as much lime as is wanted, and ask for his payment a gradual increase of rent. The writer of this article knew a gentleman who raised his rents from 15 s. to L. 2 an acre in this manner. He gave his farmers 59 bolls of lime to each acre. This cost him at that time about L. 5, 5 s. In three years the additional rise of rent indemnified him; and yet his farmers paid their rents regularly; and one of them received L. 11 from his landlord, or the rent of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acres, for two acres of sown grass. The only difficulty here is to find tenants in whom one can confide.

*Population.*—The population of this parish has fluctuated very much. In Dr Webster's account it was 448. About 14 years ago it was as low as 260, after the old farmers were removed. Three years ago it was 471 examinable persons, or about 550 of all ages; and at present it is only about 450.

*Manufactures.*—Small quantities of lint are raised for private families; but the knitting of stockings is the only manufacture of any consequence.

*Proprietors,*



*Proprietors, &c.*—Of these there are four, but none of them at present reside in the parish. The rent of the parish amounts nearly to L. 1000.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Mr James Douglas is the present minister. His stipend, by a late decret, is worth L. 100 Sterling. Colonel Hay of Rannes is patron. The church was lately rebuilt, and the manse repaired and enlarged.

*Character of the People, and Miscellaneous Observations.*—They are in general sober, honest, and industrious. Where an estate is newly peopled, the farmers cannot be supposed to be so much attached to the soil, or to the proprietor, as where they have resided on the lands from their infancy. And it sometimes happens, that a stranger will take an improved farm, with a design to scourge it. This cannot be justified by the laws of morality. On the other hand, an indulgent landlord is respected by his old tenants; and whenever the rents of an estate are raised beyond a certain sum, the proprietor seldom gains so much in point of *real interest*, as he loses in point of respectability of character. In the district of Garioch, nominal rents have produced bad payments and dispirited farmers. A little farther advancement in the knowledge of farming, and a little more indulgence from the proprietor, will, it is hoped, soon produce in a country naturally fertile, rents that are regularly paid, and farmers who are enterprising and independent.



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## APPENDIX to the STATISTICAL ACCOUNT of the Parish of INVERESK.

**B**y desire of the patron of the parish, a meeting of heritors was held in November 1794, to consult about repairing or rebuilding the church, when an enquiry was directed to be made respecting the number of persons, who could be accommodated with seats in the present church, and the number who might be expected to require seats, if there was a church built of sufficient dimensions. The result was as follows :

Total number of souls in the parish,	-	5392
Burgher Seceders,	- - 559	
Church of Relievers,	- - 516	
Episcopals,	- - 74	
Anabaptists,	- - 17	
Papists,	- - 3	
Total number of sectaries,	- - -	1169
There remains of the Established Church,	-	4223
To be deduced for children under age,	600	
Ditto for aged persons, servants, &c.	600	
	- - -	1200
There remains of persons to go to church,	-	3023
From which subtract the number the church holds,		1136
There remain unprovided for,	-	1887
		The



The heritors having met after this enquiry was made and reported to them, Resolved, after having considered it, That as neither the walls nor roof of the present church are ruinous or insufficient, that there appears no necessity for pulling the church down at this time, and rebuilding it. This resolution was made, though it was understood that the town of Musselburgh was willing to be at two-thirds of the expence in rebuilding the church.

*N. B.* It is proper to observe, in justice to this populous parish, that however wavering many of them may have been in their political opinions during the years 1792 and 1793, it is certain, that no more than 30 joined those dangerous societies, who styled themselves Friends of the People.

It is necessary to add, that there is a mistake in the Statistical Account, which states the revenue of the town of Musselburgh at L. 1500, as it does not amount now to more than L. 1200, having been reduced by the fall of the rent of their mills.

END OF VOLUME SIXTEENTH.





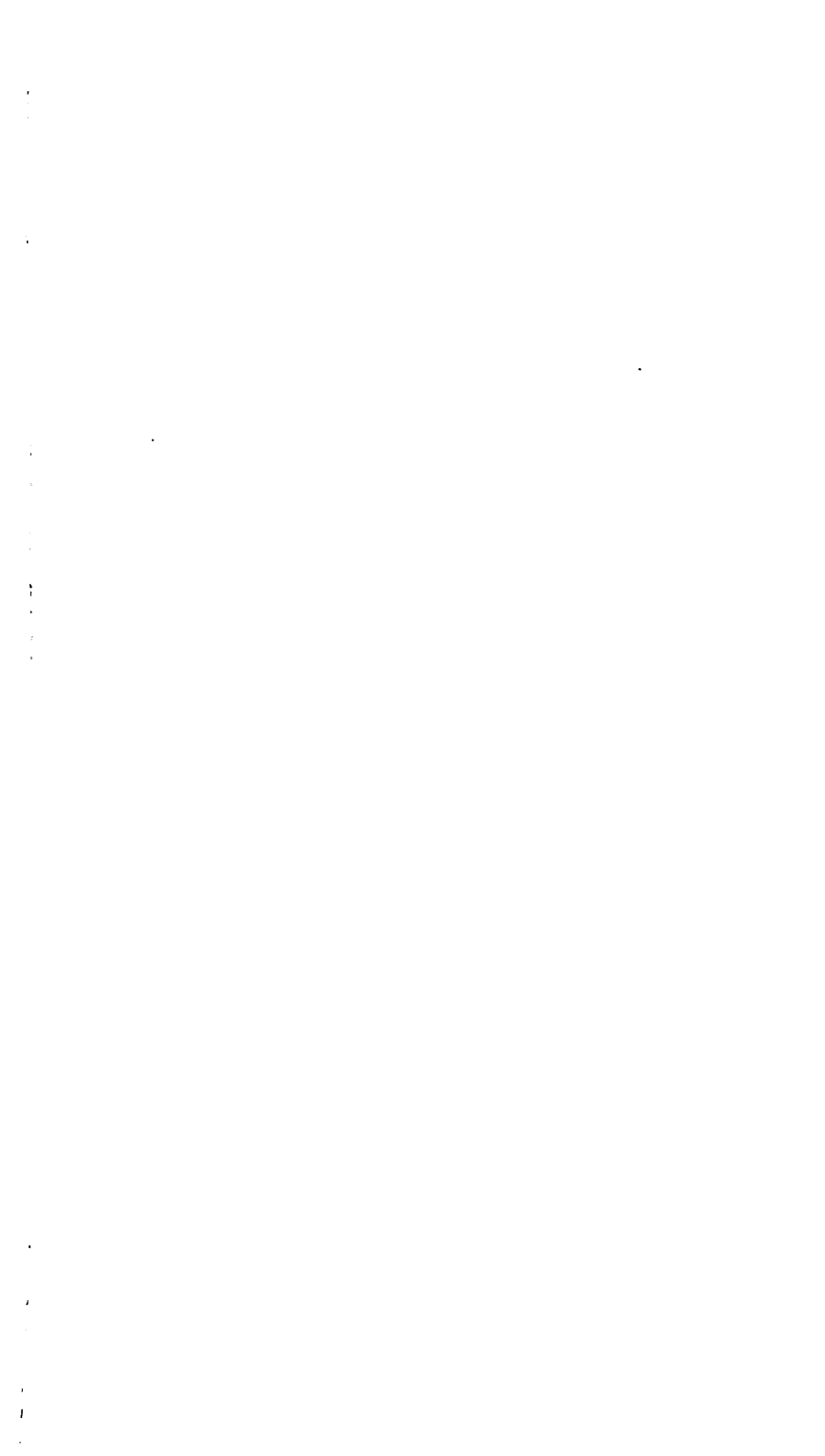














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